WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Human rights violations continue in Honduras

Caitlin Payne Roberts

U.S. imperialism is alive and well, this much we know. Here in Honduras, rifle-bearing soldiers and cops, or perhaps police dressed in military garb, or perhaps private security guards borrowing police uniforms – it's never easy to tell – are vigilant at grocery stores, Dunkin' Donuts, and banks, as well as rural communities. Where do these armed forces get their funding? You guessed it, your wallet.

Of all security funds pouring into Central America from Washington, 52% go to Honduras' highly corrupt and repressive post-coup military regime. Since the military coup d'état on June 28, 2009, which was condoned and then forgotten by the U.S. government, over 400 Hondurans have been targeted and killed in acts of state repression, whether for violating curfew, for being a feminist, or for working in alternative media. Thousands more have been detained, wounded, and tortured, and countless Hondurans are harassed daily specifically for their political views and actions.

Land use is the main struggle in this country. Peasants, or campesinos, are fighting for their right to land for subsistence farming. Thirty percent of the land in Honduras was recently promised to foreign mining corporations. Hydroelectric dams, coastal tourism projects, and monoculture megaprojects are all threats to Honduran campesinos. As indigenous, Garifuna (communities of African descent), and campesino resistance movements gain momentum, repression against them also grows stronger.

Honduras was reintegrated into the Organization of American States on June 1, 2011, after the celebrated return of ousted president Manuel Zelaya Rosales. The National Front of Popular Resistance (FNRP) welcomed his return with the largest gathering in Honduran history but found that the reintegration of the country into the OAS is a huge step back for the resistance. The FNRP had proposed four requirements for reintegration: Zelaya's return, along with all other exiles; the recognition of the FNRP as a political party; the improvement of the human rights situation in the country; and a participatory national assembly for a new constitution. None of these requirements have been fulfilled, and of these four, only one has even been touched. Just a handful of exiles have returned to the country, one of which, Enrique Flores Lanza, is under house arrest.

Police in Honduras are thrilled at a job well done of burning houses and terrorizing communities. Photo by Roger Harris.

Clearly human rights violations in Honduras continue in force, the justice system is worse than broken, and democracy is no more than a fanciful dream or a word thrown around for diplomacy's sake. Twelve families run the country. The oligarchy owns a vast proportion of fertile land, controls legislation, business, the military, and all other state institutions. One example of this twisted web is that former president Carlos Flores Facussé, the nephew of the richest man in Honduras, landlord Miguel Facussé, founded La Tribuna, the largest newspaper in Honduras, and his daughter Lizzy Flores is the country's new United Nations ambassador.

Facussé's scope is enormous. He fits the image of a classic feudalistic colonial king. He controls an army of 200 private security guards, who are ruthless in their oppression of campesinos who live on his illegally-claimed territory. Facussé bought up the hill of Zacate Grande little by little from families who had worked their land for generations, both through threatening them and by offering more and more money until the campesinos sold their ancestral land. The hill is now home to this oligarch's private hunting grounds, to which he has imported exotic animals such as white deer for the sole purpose of the sport of killing.

Twelve families run the country. The oligarchy owns a vast proportion of fertile land, controls legislation, business, the military, and all other state institutions.

Campesinos across the country are organizing fervently against the reign of

▸ **HONDURAS,** continued on page 12

Challenging Islamophobia at the border

Jeff Siddiqui

It began with a story of a young Muslim lady who was removed from her Southwest Air flight by a paranoid stewardess in San Diego in March 2011. In May 2011, two Muslims were removed from their Atlantic Southwest flight because the pilot refused to take Muslims on his plane.

In May, we started exploring the possibility of conducting a vigil-demonstration on the US side of the Peace Arch border-crossing at Blaine, Washington.

Following the second event, 58 leaders and heads of Churches, Synagogues and Mosques wrote a letter to President Obama asking him to instruct the Secretary of Transportation to inform all airlines of serious consequences if they arbitrarily removed people from their flights; we got a form-letter from the White House in reply.

In the meantime, stories of Muslims suffering humiliating and terrorizing treatment at the hands of Customs and Border Patrol agents at entry-points like Blaine, Washington, had also been piling up for years...again with letters to the regional head of ICE/CBP/USCIS and to Janet Napolitano, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security that I refer to as, "Fatherland Security". Again, our letters got us nothing but canned letters telling us how every agent is trained to the highest standards etc., etc., etc.,

We were also continuing to get news that law-enforcement agencies (police departments, FBI and CIA) as well as the military, were being trained that Islam and Muslims pose the greatest threat to the US because we are determined to destroy the US; the brainwashing of our protectors is well underway. (Read "How we train our cops to fear Islam," at tinyurl.com/4k7usp2).

The overall impression is inescapable: we are not simply paranoid, they are actually out to get us.

What to do? We tried reaching out to our persecutors and their bosses, but got nothing. We tried to reach out to our lawmakers, the Senators and the Representatives, but once again, when faced with supporting the right cause and being called "soft on terrorism" or, standing patriotically "tough!", Muslims lost out.

▸ **BLAINE,** continued on page 7

WORKS IN PROGRESS

ESTABLISHED IN 1990 BY THE THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION

Works In Progress is a free, all volunteer-operated progressive community newspaper based in Olympia, Washington. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of *Works In Progress* and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions

Please send text as Word attachments. Artwork and photos can be sent electronically or we can scan them for you as camera-ready/black & white.

Works In Progress is committed to stories misrepresented or ignored by the mainstream media. We value local, well-researched news stories, accounts of personal experience and reflections by local authors. Opinion pieces, also valued, are often best supported by facts, examples, and sources, and we encourage writers to include these elements to submissions. We're also looking for graphics, poetry, cartoons, and articles that push the boundaries of conventional journalism.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Articles may be reprinted. Please cite sources.

If your issue isn't being covered in Works In Progress, *it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or haven't found someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to *olywip@gmail* or mail to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295.

Governing Tool

The following statement is part of the Editorial Policy and is the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause:

WIP *will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by* WIP *to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but* WIP *reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Mission Statement

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. *Works In Progress* is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Back Issues

WIP is archived on microfilm by the University of Washington Library. Some issues are held in the Timberland Library system. The last five years are online at www.olywip.org

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

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Wally Cuddeford	Wendy Tanowitz
Teresa Jennings	Pat Tassoni
Joe Martineau	Berd Whitlock
Bethel Prescott	Scott Yoos
Maggie Reardon	and room for more...

Community members of Rigores, Honduras are devastated after the destruction of their community.
Photo by Roger Harris

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:
August 19
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olywip@gmail.com
Proofreading:
August 26
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YOU SHOULD WRITE FOR WIP

Letters to Works In Progress

Two responses to the media

Here are two messages I sent out recently that should be of interest to WIP readers.

The first is my response to the *Olympian* and *Tacoma News-Tribune* after they called me a "proud liberal" in their Sunday, July 10th edition. As far as I know, only the *TNT* has printed it.

In the July 10 Olympian article, "The Elusive Face of Anarchism," Sean Robinson called me a "proud liberal." This is an inaccurate description of my philosophy and behavior. I believe we live in an unjust economic system, which requires unemployment so that corporate profits can be kept obscenely high; where people's work is organized by employers and corporations, not to be fulfilling and meaningful but rather to serve the profit system. We live in a system where nature is considered a resource to be exploited rather than something we are part of. The capitalist system requires economic growth no matter what the social and environmental costs; where war and unjust interventions in other countries affairs is common. Liberals believe for the most part, markets work well and poverty, climate change, racism and militarism can be solved by the government and good leaders, probably Democrats.

My perspective is not liberal. While reforms such as universal health care, reducing unemployment are essential and improve people's lives, unless we create a different economic system, war and economic inequality will continue, and the government will be on the side of the wealthy. The Republican and Democratic Party are part of the problem, not part of the solution. The problem is capitalism. Let us create a society based on cooperation, on production for need not profit, where human rights, gender and racial equality, and sustainability are real and not rhetoric; where corporations no longer exist and where participatory democracy exists in all parts of society including the economy.

I also sent the following commentary to reporter Brandi Kruse (KIRO radio) who interviewed me July 12 regarding a story she was doing on Olympian photographer, Tony Overman, who earlier denied he had cooperated with the Olympia police. Kruse only included my first three sentences.

I am not surprised that Overman gave photos to the police. It is sad and revealing that many people claimed with no knowledge whatsoever that Overman would never, while working as a newspaper photographer, show his unpublished photos to law enforcement. He did. That the police also lied when they said they never saw unpublished photos from Overman, is also, unfortunately, nothing new. The larger issue is criminalizing and marginalizing by Overman and much of the mainstream media and law enforcement, those who protest and engage in direct action against the many illegal and immoral wars the U.S. is waging. The media and police and judges should be focusing instead on the real injustices and those who cause them--corporate leaders whose wealth grows daily while millions cannot afford health care or find a job; and on government leaders, Democrats and Republicans, who put corporate needs above human needs. Meaningful social change comes from social movements challenging in the streets--racism, economic inequality, climate change, war, poverty, etc. We should be praising and joining the protestors, those who struggle for justice and peace, rather than worrying about whether their actions upset the powerful.

Link to KIRO transcript:
http://mynorthwest.com/?nid=11&sid=498192

-Peter Bohmer

Mexican Cartels kill teenage community activist

SchNEWS! -- Mexico's drug war claimed another life in Ciudad Juárez, the border city that is officially the world's most violent city. In a city with an an average death toll of eight murders a day, this is shocking but not surprising. The victim was 19 year old Lucero Aguilar, an activist for MORENO, a left-wing youth movement. A former drug dealer himself, Lucero had quit the bloody business and dedicated himself to rescuing other youths in the poorest neighbourhoods from getting sucked in by the promises of money and power (and a short lifespan) offered by the cartels.

Lucero was ambushed in the local football field, where gunmen shot him in the back. He died shortly afterwards in hospital. It's highly unlikely that his killing will ever be investigated, or that his killers will be brought to justice. In Juárez, like most of Mexico, the narcos (gangsters) operate with complete impunity- if his killers weren't actually policemen, they will have collaborated with the police and city authorities.

Friends from his neighbourhood said, 'He was a man of his word, he cared for the kids, and he worked because he loved his neighbourhood.'

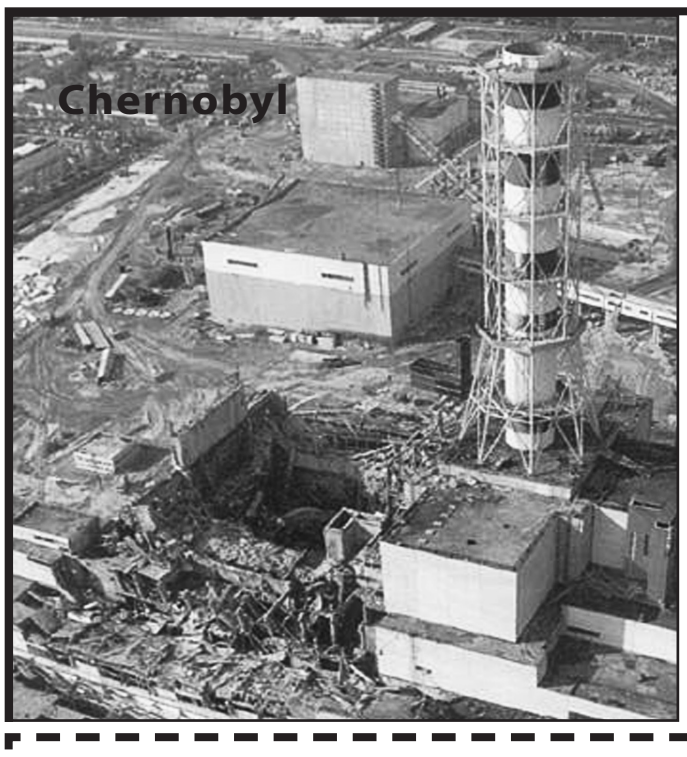
It is believed that his killing was meant to be a warning to Juárez's peace activists and community organisers, who have been getting more visible and confident since the arrival of the Peace Caravan back in June. Lucero's death is another reminder of just how cheap life is in Juárez, and how vulnerable activists are in Mexico.

Massacre in Norway committed by white supremacist

WIP News Service - On July 22, about 90 youth attending a camp sponsored by Norway's Labor Party on an island 19 miles outside of Oslo were killed by a single individual. Initial reports in the commercial mainstream media blamed the massacre -- and the bombing, hours before, of a government building in Oslo housing the office of the Prime Minister -- on Islamic extremists. But eyewitnesses at the camp described how a tall, blonde man dressed as a policeman opened fire indiscriminately at the youth. The man has since been identified as 32-year-old Anders Behring Breivik, described as a Christian Fundamentalist connected with White Supremacist groups.

Hours before the attacks, he posted a 1,500-page manifesto on the Web, raging against Marxists, multiculturalists and Muslims. Breivik had been a member of the right-wing Progress Party, which began as an anti-tax protest and has been stridently anti-immigrant and anti-Muslim. With the Tea Party gaining power in the U.S. and with its similar agenda, could something similar be in the works here? And, if so, will it be used as an excuse for even more racial profiling, more curtailment of civil liberties, and possibly martial law?

Truth has had little place in the relentless propaganda campaign initiated by the U.S. in 2001, in which hatred of Muslims has been used as the centerpiece of its storyline about the need to make war on the populations of Afghanistan and Iraq — and now Libya and Pakistan. The military juggernaut unleashed by the U.S. on the populations of at least these four countries has its own logic which defies logic and must be constantly resisted by those who care about our planet and all those who inhabit it.



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Police harassment on the streets of Olympia

A local activist speaks out

Interview from WIP News Service

MC Strife (a.k.a. Paul French) is a local musician, anarchist, and activist. For years, he has been active in organizing here in Olympia, most recently in opposition to the new anti-busking law passed by the City Council,as well as around issues of police brutality and class struggle. In 2010, based solely on the testimony of one police officer, Strife was convicted of assault against that officer. With a felony record, he has been politically, socially, and economically disenfranchised as a result.

Strife has been the target of a consistent campaign of police harassment downtown, relating to his activist work. Court records and communications between various law enforcement agencies, received through the Freedom of Information Act, reveal that Strife has come under the specific attention of local police, who have been using police connections to monitor his activities as far away as California. Strife has shared the relevant documents with Works In Progress*, and they will be made available at www.olywip.org.*

In the midst of this ongoing harassment, Strife is choosing this moment to make his situation public.

First, tell us a little bit about yourself.

I originally came to Olympia because of a serious case of wanderlust. I lived in North Carolina for 20 years so moving to Olympia in 2006 seemed like a breath of fresh air. Here I finished my last 2 years of higher education at the Evergreen State College. A long-time fan of hip hop, I first learned how to emcee here and formed a Hip Hop group called Thought Crime Collective. My music draws inspiration from Olympia's vibrant activist community and the inspirational example of people overcoming their differences and militantly confronting the imperialist war machine at our ports. This is how I first cut my teeth in Olympia, organizing students through Hip Hop Congress and Sabot Infoshoppe (a radical lending library) and doing Port Militarization Resistance work with brave people from many different backgrounds.

How would you describe your politics?

I'm an anarchist at heart. I'm against all bosses, borders, nations, and corporations that keep us fooled. It's true what they say: Revolutionaries fight back nail and tooth. They call me a radical cause I strike at the root, and an insurrectionist cause I don't trust those that rule. They call me a criminal cause I expose structural violence, and a thought criminal because free thought is dangerous to tyrants. I'm an eco-primitivist cause I know the earth suffers, and an anarcho-syndicalist cause I know the state's a buffer. I'm an abolitionist cause I know that wage slavery's a bust. The truth is, I pay attention, so I know that power always corrupts.

What activist work are you involved in?

I was almost illegally evicted recently, so I've been focusing on homelessness advocacy through the new group CIVIL (Citizens In Violation of Illegal Laws), and organizing the street community to assert their rights, restarting the copwatch downtown and trying to oppose all the unjust laws downtown that make a crime out of being poor. I don't appreciate how the Downtown Business Association and other powerful local actors are using these restrictive laws and an abusive police force to sweep the poor under the rug, so they don't have to see the blood on their hands – the displaced people, the shattered, fractured lives that their unequal system leaves in its wake.

In the past, I've coordinated a radical lending library called the Sabot Infoshoppe and took part in the anti-police rallies on the 4th Ave. bridge (where I personally met the military spy John Towery). I've done Port Militarization Resistance work in Olympia and Tacoma. I was also involved in the Smash ICE movement to stop the Wells Fargo-built immigration detention center in Tacoma. I've participated in solidarity actions with the Greek Insurrection after the 15-year old Alexandros Grigoropoulos was shot and killed by Athens police in 2008, and I helped bring Dead Prez to Evergreen through my work with Hip Hop Congress the same year.

More recently, I've done benefit shows in Portland to help save the Black Rose Infoshop, I performed at the Olympia Capitol Protest against the slashing of vital social services, and done spoken word at three different Bank of America Protests with the Olympia and Portland chapters of US Uncut. Lastly, I've been doing support work for Scott Yoos, a dear friend and disabled community activist brutalized by the police. I helped organize the People Park Occupation last month and in 2010 I was framed for punching a cop at the State Street 29 action in support of Oscar Grant, a man who was extra-judicially murdered by a BART transit cop in Oakland when he was on his knees with his hands tied behind his back.

Tell everyone about your music.

Thought Crime Collective consists of some of the Illest MCs and producers found on the North American landmass. We act as embedded journalists on the front lines of the revolution. Our music can be viewed as a call to arms, as an exercise in testing the limits of free speech in our supposedly free society and as a living historical document to inspire future generations to resist the onslaught of the corporatocracy...

Our west coast affiliates can be found in Olympia, Portland, and Oakland. Our East Coast contingent holds it down in Greensboro, North Carolina. We dropped our first album, "Love & Rage" in 2010 and we are pleased to announce that we have a slew of new projects in the works including a new West Coast full length album tentatively called "Spliffs, Fists, & Clips" and a new East Coast collaboration EP entitled "Revolutionary Suicide" which should be dropping in the next few months as well! [All of TCC's material is available at www.spraygraphic.com/thoughtcrimecollective. And you can download 17 songs for free at www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandid=1140475]

Starting last year, you got increased attention from the police around town. What was the first thing that made you say, "Hey, maybe this isn't just a couple chance encounters with police. Maybe I'm being singled out."

Well, as a person who was raised by activist intellectuals (both teachers – one's a historian the other an anthropologist), I have to admit I wasn't surprised about the political repression in the least. Especially due to the militant nature of my music, which is directly influenced by the radical protests and actions I engage in. Although I had sneaking suspicions, I never had any proof of this until Drew Hendricks did a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request which revealed law enforcement exchanges between the Olympia Police Department (OPD) and Washington State Patrol (WSP). That demonstrated that authorities had been spying on me through my Facebook, they knew the make/model/license plate of my car, they knew where I lived, and they knew that I was going to perform at the Olympia Capitol Occupation on April 5, 2011. They referred to me interchangeably as Paul French and the "white rapper" in their e-mail exchanges. The state was also documenting my friendships and associations, as evidenced by an exchange about a trip I took to Sacramento in solidarity with the California Teacher's Strike that happened early May 2011. Most disturbingly, Drew also discovered that OPD Detective Rich Allen may be receiving pressure from Seattle Detectives and even "domestic terrorism people" to either frame me or try to pressure me for information that I don't have on the arson that happened at the West Side police substation a few months ago.

So all I can say is that I did expect some surveillance and state intimidation, but never to the extent that the Freedom of Information Act requests revealed. What was especially concerning was that the WSP had originally planned to engage in some kind of undefined contact with me before I performed on April 5 at the Capitol, but I performed two hours early, so the exchanges have a vexed tone to them. Then the second e-mail between Detective Allen and Darrin Reedy (a Crime Analyst), revealed that other unnamed departments in the region were requesting information on me. They seemed to be communicating about me as if they might be attempting to hold me responsible for any illegal actions taken at the Capitol the day I performed. The exact quote from the e-mail read... "He performed at 1600 [hours]... 81 peopled rushed the governor's office and they had to lock down the offices... they left fairly quickly after that... No physical confrontations..."

This is especially important in light of the frame-up that the state was able to carry out against me successfully at the State Street 29 protest one year earlier. Officer Sean Lindros lied and said that I punched him in the face, even though he misidentified the color of my bandana, and had no visible marks or bruises in the pictures he took of his face after the protest.

[Strife provided WIP *with photos of himself and of Sean Lindros taken by OPD after the incident. In his police report, Lindros referred to these as "Photos of my injuries." No "injuries" or indications of contact of any kind were apparent in the photos of Lindros. Lindros also claimed he identified Strife out of the crowd based solely on the fact that the person who allegedly punched him was wearing a blue bandana. However, the arrest photo clearly shows Strife wearing a bandana of a different color.]*

MC Strife: ***Although I had sneaking suspicions, I never had any proof until Drew Hendricks did a FOIA request, which demonstrated that authorities had been spying on me on Facebook, they knew where I lived, they knew my car...***

At the time, you told friends of yours, "Hey, I think something's up. I think the cops are harassing me." And people didn't believe you. What was it like, to be in that position?

It was immensely frustrating. I felt alienated from my own friends and social scene. I'm largely to blame because I cut off a lot of ties with people I knew who were trying to support me, because of how suspicious I had become about informants. Looking back, my response was probably exactly what the state was aiming for, and why they are especially worried now that I have continued building relationships in the activist community. Watching as the *Olympian* dragged my name through the mud for something I never did, becoming demonized as the poster child for the "bad protester" archetype and facing jail time, even though I only marched that night to hand out flyers, had a kind of nightmarish Kafkaesque quality to it. Knowing intrinsically that something was wrong, but being unable to convince anyone of the false nature of the charges against me, nearly drove me to the edge of my sanity, and led to my first and only nervous breakdown. When I spoke to people about all the parallels between my case and other known cases of surveillance, like the John Towery fiasco, or the Phil Chinn debacle, I would either get blown off as paranoid, or people would scoff and incredulously declare, "You really think the authorities don't have better things to do than watch *your* every move?" The catch is, I can't technically be considered paranoid, if it's been proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the powerful *are* out to get me. It's vindicating that we finally have that proof.

What do you think the point was, for the cops to be targeting and harassing you like this? What do you think they hoped to achieve?

I can only speculate that they are attempting to get me to drop out of the activist community, or maybe they are trying to run me out of town. Maybe they thought that I'd miss one of the many court dates, so they'd be able to bring me into custody and pressure me to give up information about other local anarchists. Giving me six tickets in two months has also forced me into a corner financially. I suppose the authorities were trying to make it generally untenable for me to show my face on the streets at any time without facing legal, financial, and political repercussions because of my work bridging the activist and street communities.

What's been their most frequent method of harassing you downtown?

I am downtown all the time busking, so I've been charged with pedestrian interference by OPD only to be pulled over by WSP less than 5 minutes after getting into my car. The most common way of concealing the political nature of the harassment was pulling me over while I was driving perfectly well. They would use a number of pretexts, and then repeatedly give me the same $550 "driving without insurance" ticket. The excuses they've pulled me over for include that my muffler was too loud, a passenger was not wearing a seat-belt, Washington is a two-license plate state. WSP Somerville even had the gall to lie to my face and say that my front lights didn't work when they did. But the important thing is, they wouldn't give me a ticket for the pretext – just the one for "driving without insurance."

And recently, they've been targeting you for your work in opposing the busking ban?

Yes, I have an interesting story about that situation. Tired of being hassled for "busking without a permit," I went down to the Olympia Building with $100 ready to purchase a permit, only to be notified that there was no such thing. Busking permits are only given to local businesses to expand the four locations that are okay to legally busk downtown. (Last Word Books has the only permit so far.) The staff handed me a busking map with this information, and I immediately made 100 copies and went around handing it out to everyone on the streets, telling people to "Know Your Rights," and obviously making it a bit harder for the police to harass, jail, and rob poor people.

But it doesn't end there. Officer J Herbig pulled up a week after this incident, and called me by my full name over to his SUV. Mentioning that there had been a memo from the higher-ups circulating about my role in publicizing the free busking zones, he told me he'd been looking for me and insisted that I hold on a second, while he went down to city hall and printed out another copy of the busking map and the legal definition of busking. He tried to convince me that what I was doing (offering political shirts and books for donation on the street with no "expectation of payment") did not fall under the rubric for busking, which usually involves some kind of public performance. So he was trying to argue that I wasn't allowed to do that *even in* the busking-permitted zones. I then replied that I had over 4,000 pages of poetry and that I would be happy to perform for the passers-by to meet this requirement. This is where things get surreal. Herbig then got on his police bullhorn, and jokingly introduced me thusly, "Listen up everyone, Strife of Thought Crime Collective has something to say!" Nonetheless I was shaken by this acknowledgement of my music. He then left shortly after, without incident. But the whole "You are breaking the law, you are not busking" angle would be picked up on a month later by Ruth Snyder, the code enforcement officer and one of the most vocal proponents of downtown yuppification who continued to threaten to have me arrested and cited for bringing my screenprints downtown.

Let's go back a bit, and talk about State Street. You were arrested, along with a handful of others, and you ended up being convicted of felony assault against an officer. What happened there?

The logistics of what happened during the end of the march were pretty suspicious. I committed no acts of vandalism and no violence against police, however I was singled out as the "kid with the banner" moments after a highly coordinated take-down where the rest of the march linked arms and passively got "liberal-arrested," rather than fighting back or fleeing the situation. There was an unmarked SUV with California license plates at the take-down, and my roommate can testify that after arresting 3 out of 5 members of my hip hop group, the officers processing us were joking that, "I guess Thought Crime Collective isn't playing tonight..."

Tell everyone a little bit about your legal battle after your arrest. How did that go?

I didn't have the money for a lawyer so I took a public pretender who convinced me to cop to an Alford Plea, which paradoxically counts as a guilty plea while still allowing me to maintain my innocence. Using an Alford Plea meant that I wouldn't have to implicate others or testify in court, and I took it because I felt that the state would be able to convince a jury to be biased against me because of my politics.

▸ **STRIFE,** continued on page 14

Nuclear power and natural disasters

A dangerous combination

Wendy Tanowitz

The Origins of Nuclear Power

Nuclear power was developed in the United States in the years after World War II and was the offspring of a massive scientific project to develop a nuclear weapon. A decision was made to normalize nuclear technology by promoting it under the slogan "Atoms for Peace" and marketing it as a source of energy that would be "too cheap to meter." It was understood that nuclear weapons proliferation would be a likely consequence of the spread of nuclear energy technology -- since Plutonium-239, produced when Uranium-235 is split (fissioned) is used as the trigger for a nuclear bomb. But some of those responsible just didn't want to think about this or about how to safely dispose of radioactive waste. There were weapons to be manufactured and money to be made.

While government sources in Japan claim the plants will be completely cleaned up within several decades, the British science journal Nature has reported that the cleanup of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and surrounding area could take as long as a century.

The splitting of U-235 and the chain reaction which ensues creates enormous heat—and about 200 new radionuclides. In a commercial nuclear reactor, this heat turns water into steam which is then used to drive a turbine which turns a generator in order to create electricity.

The Aftershocks

The March 11, 2011, earthquake off the coast of Japan shook more than just that one country. It has shattered the myth that nuclear power plants are safe and that radioactive releases are localized. Radioactive fallout from the wrecked reactors has been measured in Hawaii, all West Coast states, Canada, Massachusetts, and in Britain -- more than 5,000 miles from the nuclear accident.

Truth: the first casualty

For at least two months, TEPCO, the owner of the nuclear complex at Fukushima Daiichi, repeatedly denied there had been significant damage to the six reactors. The truth is that they knew, within 18 hours of the earthquake/tsunami, that at least three of the reactors had suffered reactor core meltdowns (or, as some are calling them, "melt-throughs") and that estimated temperatures of over 5,000°F had been reached in some of the reactor cores. Fires and hydrogen explosions took place early on at Unit 4, and it can logically be assumed that this reactor is also in a state of partial or complete meltdown. Even though aerial photography widely available on the Internet gave the lie to TEPCO's mantra that all was well, the company maintained the fiction for as long as it could.

Although no definitive information has been released about Units 5 and 6, it is reasonable to assume they are in an unstable and dangerous condition. After the earthquake, the coastline of Japan's main island moved eastward by about eight feet, probably damaging the transmission lines supplying offsite power to the reactors as well as many internal structures and technology necessary for the safe operation of the reactors.

Located on the "Ring of Fire," a seismically-active horseshoe-shaped area covering 25,000 miles (which includes the West Coast of the US), Japan has since ordered the shutdown of 35 of its 54 nuclear reactors so that they can undergo "stress tests." Many of these reactors had already been shut down for refueling or other reasons. Some of the reactors which continued to operate have since experienced technical malfunctions and are now shut down. It remains to be seen how this huge loss of electrical production will affect life and commerce in Japan's sweltering summer.

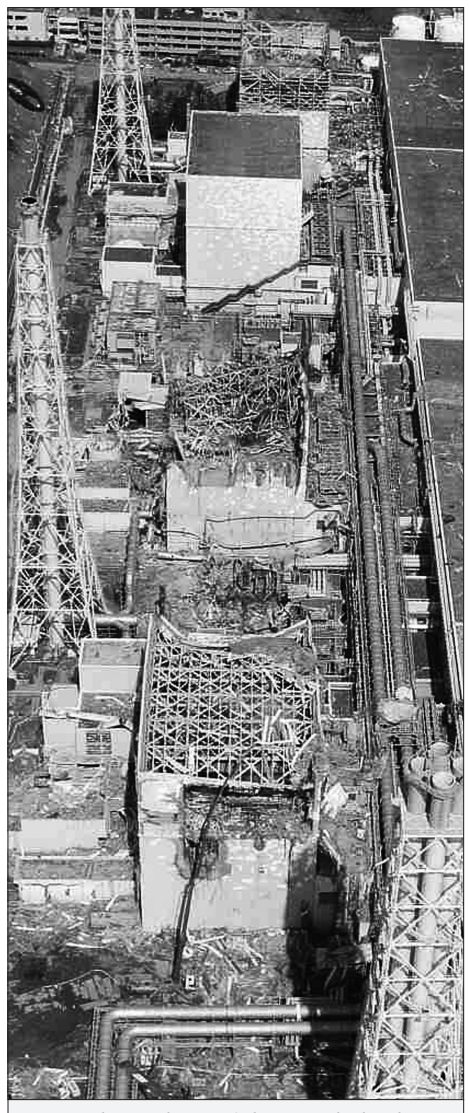
Spent-fuel pools

One-third of the fuel rod assemblies in a nuclear reactor must be replaced every two years--sometimes with greater frequency. Despite the name, "spent fuel" still contains many highly radioactive elements, some of which remain so for decades to thousands of years. They are only "spent" in the sense that they no longer contain enough fissionable material to keep the nuclear chain reaction going for commercial purposes. Since there is no way to permanently and safely dispose of these fuel rod assemblies, they have been accumulating onsite at nuclear power plants for decades; some of the pools hold much greater numbers of fuel assemblies than they were designed to.

According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, there are seven spent-fuel pools at the six Daiichi reactors which currently store more than 800 tons of fuel rods, containing vastly more amounts of radioactivity than do the reactors themselves. The pools require constant cooling of the water in which the fuel assemblies are immersed — to a depth of about 40 feet.

These storage pools have no containment barriers and no backup electrical power from the grid. This is the standard situation at most, if not all, of the spent-fuel pools at the 400+ commercial nuclear reactors located throughout the world.

One Internet report indicated that, in mid-March, a TEPCO spokesman stated that the seven spent-fuel pools at Fukushima Daiichi plants had not been cooled since shortly after the March 11 earthquake. While this cannot be verified with certainty, given that the buildings housing the spent-fuel pools have been wrecked, that essential pipes have broken and the water intake system has been destroyed — and with no offsite power to cool the water circulating in the pools — is it even remotely possible that there have been no radioactive releases from these storage pools?



March 20 photo of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in northern Japan. (Air Photo Service)

While the spent fuel does not contain enough Uranium-235 to maintain nuclear fission for commercial purposes, it can, under certain conditions, re-fission. And, if the water in the pools should boil off, the fuel rods have the potential to melt. The rods contain radioactive material, which, if aerosolized, will be carried on the wind, enter water and soil and contaminate the food chain and the web of life. If incorporated into the bodies of living beings, these radioactive isotopes can damage the genetic material and internal organs of all creatures who come in contact with it.

Pregnant women and children—whose bodies are changing rapidly—people with weak immune systems and the elderly are most vulnerable to short-term health risks from exposure to the radiation released from a damaged nuclear plant. And all of us are at long-term risk from exposure to the huge amounts of radiation which have been and continue to be released from the six damaged reactors and spent-fuel pools. Geiger counters cannot measure radiation which has been taken into the body through inhalation or digestion.

While government sources in Japan claim the plants will be completely cleaned up within several decades,

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

Missouri River flood threatens two nuclear reactors

Fort Calhoun Nuclear Generating Station, June 16, 2011. (Army Corps of Engineers photo)

Unprecedented flooding of the Missouri River began on June 1 in Sioux City, Iowa–about 60 miles north of the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant. The upper Missouri River basin received nearly a year`s worth of rainfall during the last half of May and, as of early July, snowmelt runoff is predicted to be 212% of normal across the upper portion of the river system.

While thousands of acres of rich Midwestern farmland have already been flooded, several hundred thousand acres and even some urban areas near the Missouri River are at risk of flooding this summer because of water levels that may overwhelm some levees, especially older ones.

Official sources have released no information since the end of June about the status of two Nebraska nuclear plants located adjacent to the River's banks. Rumors have been circulating that President Obama has actually ordered that no information be released about the status of the two plants.

Fort Calhoun Nuclear Generating Station, about 20 miles north of downtown Omaha, has been turned into an island that has been surrounded by floodwaters since early- to mid-June, when the U.S. imposed a "no-fly zone" above the plant. Fort Calhoun stores "spent" nuclear fuel for the entire state of Nebraska and some other plants as well. In total, the reactor site holds 600,000 to 800,000 pounds of high-level nuclear waste in pools which are overcrowded. Almost one million people live within a 50-mile radius of the plant, which has not produced electricity since early April, when it shut down for refueling.

Most recent reports indicate that two feet of water have accumulated inside some of the site's buildings. Arnie Gunderson, a nuclear engineer with Fairewinds Associates, reports that, as of late June, water had already penetrated the intake structure which contains the emergency service water pumps needed for cooling the nuclear fuel. Water also breached the reactor building and on June 27 floodwaters entered the turbine building. In total denial of what he saw with his own eyes, when Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Gregory Jaczko visited the Fort Calhoun plant on June 27 (the same day that an 8-foot-tall, water-filled temporary berm protecting the plant collapsed), he referred to the flood as a "water event." He declared, "We don't believe the plant is posing an immediate threat to the health and safety of the public." His subsequent statements have not acknowledged the dire situation at the Fort Calhoun and Cooper nuclear plants.

The Cooper Nuclear Plant, which began operation in July 1974, is located 70 miles south of Omaha. It is also at high risk of being flooded by the Missouri River, but there is scant information about its current status.

What is "cold shutdown"?

It's impossible to just flip a switch and turn a nuclear reactor off. While, under normal operating conditions, the nuclear reaction can be halted, water must continue to circulate in order to remove the residual heat being generated by the fuel rods. Cold shutdown is defined by the industry as maintaining reactor core temperature, at atmospheric pressure, at a temperature below 200°F following a reactor cooldown. This is just below 212°F, the boiling point of water. A reactor where the coolant has boiled off can reach temperatures over 5000°F.

the British science journal Nature has reported that the cleanup of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster and surrounding area could take as long as a century.

Lies, damn lies, and nuclear power

Of the approximately 200 new radioactive isotopes which are created when Uranium-235 undergoes fission, some, like Plutonium-239, remain harmful to for hundreds of thousands of years (or longer!). Radionuclides created by nuclear fission cannot be seen, smelled or tasted and require specialized technology to measure, thus creating an information vacuum on which to base a response. While sophisticated measuring equipment is in the hands of government and industry, there are many incentives for them not to do proper testing and/or to withhold information: the powers-that-be don't want people to panic; they want to avoid an economic crisis; and they want to continue with business as usual. While these may seem like laudable goals, they must not come at the expense of public health and safety.

Some brave non-professionals have purchased their own testing devices and have posted information on YouTube and internet blogs. And some former nuclear engineers, like Arnie Gunderson and David Lochbaum, are contradicting the Big Lie that all is well. Greenpeace is boldly at the forefront of citizen science and activism.

How to proceed from here?

The health consequences of failures at nuclear power plants are borne by all life-forms on the planet. Ecocide is not too strong a word for the potential from major nuclear accidents. We cannot allow information and remediation to be controlled by business, government entities, and regulatory agencies. TEPCO, the owner of the reactors at Fukushima Daiichi, is the only entity responsible for dealing with their plants. Omaha Public Power and Light is withholding vital information about the status and risks of the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Generating Station. This is not acceptable.

If those with creative scientific minds were to call for a series of local, national and international conferences, perhaps they could come up with solutions to nuclear remediation and propose steps people can take to protect their health and the health of the planet. Perhaps they could put forth a realistic plan to completely eliminate nuclear power plants and generate electricity from clean, renewable sources.

As citizens and residents, we also have the potential to make positive change. We can pool our resources and purchase monitoring equipment which will give us the information we need to educate people in agencies tasked with protecting our health and the health of the environment. We can also demand that these agencies undertake serious monitoring of the releases from Fukushima. We can start this process locally and build from there to effect change on a regional, national and international level.

Wendy Tanowitz has been concerned about nuclear power since 1981, when she was part of an affinity group that blocked the gates at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Plant in San Luis Obispo County, California. She may be contacted at green-girl@comcast.net.

Resources

News not available elsewhere:

- *Nuclear Power is Not the Answer*, by Dr. Helen Caldicott
- Heart of America Northwest (hoanw.org)
- enenews.com
- ucsusa.org/nuclear_power/
- fairewinds.com
- greenpeace.org/usa/en/campaigns/nuclear/Fukushima-nuclear-disaster/
- beyondnuclear.org
- nirs.org
- youtube.com and images.google.com

Coming up in *Works in Progress*:
Why nuclear power is neither carbon-free nor clean energy.

Examples of climate change threatening nuclear facilities

April - May 2011: Thunderstorms and tornadoes knocked out 300 transmission lines and cut offsite power to three nuclear reactors at the Browns Ferry plant in Alabama, operated by the Tennessee Valley Authority.

June 2011: Jellyfish proliferating in warming ocean waters clogged intake valves and filters and caused three nuclear plants -- two in Scotland and one in Japan -- to shut down. Even Israel's largest electricity-generating plant (coal-fueled), located in Hadera, was forced to shut down because tons of jellyfish clogged seawater filters.

June 2011: Northern Europe is experiencing one of its driest spring seasons on record. Of France's 58 nuclear reactors — which produce about 80% of its electricity — 44 are cooled by river water. Among the worst-case scenarios are (1) that nuclear reactors may overheat because of the lack of intake water to cool them; or (2) the ecological balance in river systems may be destroyed when heated water from nuclear reactors returns to shallow rivers,

June -July 2011: The Las Conchas fire —50% contained as of mid-July — has so far charred more than 232 square miles of the Jemez Mountains in New Mexico and burned at least an acre on the grounds of Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), where nuclear weapons are designed and constructed. As the monsoon season begins, LANL workers are desperately trying to prevent nuclear and chemical waste — now located on ground which has been denuded of vegetation due to the fires — from being washed into the Rio Grande River. LANL has admitted that radioactive and chemical waste was also buried at Bandelier National Monument and well over 800 other sites.

ILWU 21: 'We're all going to jail as a union'

David Groves

LONGVIEW (July 15) — The biggest labor dispute in Washington state — spawning one of the more militant union campaigns in decades — is happening right here, right now. About 100 union members were cited and arrested earlier this week in Longview, and yesterday hundreds more crowded onto railroad tracks to block a mile-long train.

Here's what's going on.

EGT Development, a joint venture of Japan-based Itochu Corp, South Korea's STX Pan Ocean and St. Louis-based Bunge North America, is using non-union labor to handle grain in the testing phase of its new $200 million facility at the Port of Longview. All other grain export terminals from the Columbia River to the Puget Sound have successfully and profitably worked with unionized labor for decades.

Talks between EGT executives and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 21, which has a contract for all longshore work on Port property, about becoming signatory to the area standard contract broke down months ago and the company has refused to return to the table. Instead, EGT has sued the Port in federal court, arguing that the company was not bound by the contract with Local 21 to hire union labor on its leased site. The company claims that keeping the facility's 50 full-time workers non-union will save EGT $1 million a year.

Now, after months of picketing and attempts to pressure EGT to return to the table, the ILWU members are angry.

"We are going to fight for our jobs in our jurisdiction. We have worked this dock for 70 years, and to have a big, rich corporation come in and say, 'We don't want you,' is a problem," ILWU 21 President Dan Coffman told the (Longview) Daily News. "We're all together. We're all going to jail as a union."

And go to jail they did. At a July 11 protest, members tore down a chain-link gate and stormed the EGT grain terminal. About 100 union dock workers, including union leaders, were cited and arrested. It was the latest of four large-scale demonstrations the ILWU has held in the last two months. On June 3, more than 1,000 ILWU supporters from Washington to California rallied outside EGT's headquarters in downtown Portland. The protests have all been loud, but nonviolent.

At a July 11 protest, members tore down a chain-link gate and stormed the EGT grain terminal. About 100 union dock workers, including union leaders, were cited and arrested. It was the latest of four large-scale demonstrations the ILWU has held in the last two months.

Yesterday (July 14), hundreds of union dock workers crowded onto railroad tracks to block a train from delivering grain to the EGT terminal. The Daily News reports that the 107-car train was rerouted to Vancouver following the standoff, which prompted Burlington Northern Santa Fe to indefinitely suspend train traffic to the grain terminal for safety reasons.

"Union longshore workers have made the Northwest one of the most productive grain exporting regions in the world," Coffman said. "This new grain terminal stands to gain by playing by the same rules as the other grain operators that are making lots of money with productive union workers."

From the start, EGT has been trying to run its new facility on the cheap. Despite high unemployment in Cowlitz County and the availability of hundreds of skilled union building trades workers, the Northwest Labor Press reports that EGT imported the vast majority of its construction crews from low-wage communities out-of-state and did not pay area standard wages.

To make matters worse, Washington taxpayers subsidized EGT's construction of the terminal. Operators of grain elevators like EGT get a special state tax exemption entitling them to a "remittance equal to one hundred percent of the amount of tax paid for qualifying construction, materials, service, and labor."

So, to sum up: a taxpayer-subsidized international conglomerate, which is operating on public property, is suing the public so it can avoid paying the area's standard wages and undercut its competitors that do.

"By far this is the most intense labor event that I can remember," Cowlitz County Sheriff Mark Nelson told the Daily News. But he said he understands what the union is trying to accomplish even though he didn't agree with its tactics. "Bless their hearts. These are our neighbors, too. These are our folks. This is our community."

UPDATE (July 18): The Daily News reports — In a move that "stunned" the local longshore leadership, EGT Development announced Sunday it will hire a union contractor to staff 25 to 35 jobs at its terminal. Federal Way-based General Construction Co., a subsidiary of Kiewit Infrastructure West Co., which hires workers through the International Union of Operating Engineers, will start working at the terminal this week, EGT officials say.

UPDATE (July 19): The Daily News reports — Local ILWU dock workers will continue to fight to work at the EGT Development grain terminal at the Port of Longview despite the company's weekend announcement that it's hiring a Federal Way union contractor. EGT announced Sunday that it hired a union contractor to employ about 25 to 35 workers. The company would likely hire from IUOE Local 701, based out of Gladstone, Ore. Two messages left at Local 701's headquarters were not returned Monday. Ed Taylor, president of IUOE Local 612 based out of Tacoma, said the EGT terminal is out of his jurisdiction and his local would not claim work from other unions, such as the ILWU. Local 701 has not said whether it would undercut the ILWU either.

David Groves is the editor of The Stand, *the new online newspaper of the Washington State Labor Council.*

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EL MACHETE
ILLUSTRATED
CUTTING THROUGH THE BULLSH
ERIC J. GARCÍA 2011
DON'T PRETEND AFTER ALL THESE YEARS YOU ARE JUST NOW TASTING SOMETHING ROTTEN.
TAP! TAP!
CHIQUITA
DESPERATE FOR CASH, UNCLE SAM HAS ALL OF A SUDDEN DECIDED TO FINE THE CHIQUITA BANANA COMPANY $25 MILLION DOLLARS FOR SUPPORTING TERRORISTS IN COLOMBIA.

Adam Keller's Crazy Country Blog

Adam Keller is a long-time Israeli peace activist and the spokesperson for Gush Shalom, an organization that calls for a Palestinian state with pre-1967 borders.

What follows is an excerpt from his blog "Crazy Country." You can follow his blog at adam-keller2.blogspot.com.

Balaam's curse 2011

For many years, the Gush Shalom movement (of which, it must be disclosed, the present writer is the spokesperson) was alone in calling for a boycott of settlement products – the products coming from Israeli settlements in Occupied Territory, designed to serve as an obstacle to peace and to prevent the Palestinians from establishing their state. From 1997 to 2011 the movement's volunteers made the constant effort, with a tiny budget and limited resources, of moving between supermarket shelves and checking the small print on each product. Occasionally an activist on a motorcycle went to the settlement industrial areas themselves and carefully noted down the names of all the plants seen. And the data were compiled systematically and published online and distributed at the annual rallies in memory of Yitzhak Rabin, early in November every year. "Do not buy the products of the settlements – every penny for the settlements is a penny against peace" was inscribed in large characters on the cover of these booklets.

Many in the Israeli Left did not really like this activity. Very many times we heard such things like: "I am against the settlements, sure, but to boycott them is really a radical step." Peace Now carefully refrained from declaring a boycott of settlement products. At most, some of its activists sometimes disclosed that privately they were avoiding purchase of settlement products. Absolutely nothing beyond that.

For many years the settler leaders claimed that the boycott did not matter, that it did it not bother them at all, that their manufacturing plants were booming and thriving, and that their sympathizers were actually using the boycott list as a positive guide of things to buy. But it seems that somehow the boycott did touch them and deeply disturb them and punctuate their sleep. The fact is that Knesset Member Ze'ev Elkin, himself a settler and head of the "Eretz Yisrael Lobby" in the Knesset initiated a bill to outlaw this boycott, and pushed and pressed and struggled with all his might until it was inscribed in black and white on the statutes of the State of Israel.

Ze'ev Elkin and his settler friends expected that they would achieve their goal and erase the settlement boycott from the spectrum of political expression and activity in Israel. After all, Gush Shalom simply would not be in a position to continue the settlement boycott campaign – a movement which is far from overflowing with money, which has no funding from any foreign government nor a millionaire supporter such as the settler patron Irving Moskowitz, and subsisting on quite modest donations from private citizens. Rightly could Elkin assume that Gush Shalom could not risk to be flooded with lawsuits under the new law, whereby any company based in a settlement could sue and demand unlimited damages from anyone boycotting them, without having to prove any harm caused to them by the same boycott.

But the unexpected happened. Precisely since Ze'ev Elkin managed to bend the Knesset to his will by disproportionate pressure, the drive for a boycott of the settlements is on an unprecedented rise, flourishing and jumping up as it never did before. From the moment when results of the Knesset vote were published, Peace Now started collecting signatures on the petition entitled: "Prosecute me - I'm boycotting the products of the settlements!" and parliamentarians read out a list of products to be boycotted on the Knesset floor, and the Meretz Youths entered supermarkets and stuck warning labels on settlement products displayed for sale. And day by day there is a lengthening list of public figures and columnists proclaiming that despite - and precisely because of – Elkin's Law they would from now on boycott settlement products and call upon others to do the same.

It would suffice to quote the words of Etgar Keret, in yesterday's Yediot Ahronot: "When elected officials enact violent legislation which violates the individual's basic rights, it is nothing less than a civic duty to break it. Had my country enacted a law prohibiting men from kissing in public, I would look on the street for the first man who does not reek of cigarettes or garlic and give him a passionate kiss. When our country chooses to prosecute and persecute people because they are trying to influence in democratic ways the future of the country where they live, then I must use this forum to call for a boycott of the settlements. "

"When our country chooses to prosecute and persecute people because they are trying to influence in democratic ways the future of the country where they live, then I must use this forum to call for a boycott of the settlements."

And a few pages later in the same paper appears the article of Meir Shalev: "By the weekend, when my column appears, quite a lot of good people already preceded me in expressing shame, disgust and apprehension at the anti-boycott law, another piece of legislative folly and injustice, courtesy of the Israeli right-wing.

I can tell you that from now on every visit to my grocery store will take much more time. If in the past I was looking at the packages of products in order to find how many calories and what harmful chemicals I might gorge myself on, from now on I will also look for the place of production. Following the publication of this law, I'm not going to continue giving any support to the settlements beyond what they get from the taxes I have no choice but to pay. By the way, I think that for this it might be possible to claim compensations from MK Elkin under his own law – since it was that law which caused me and others to undertake such a strict boycott.

Uri Elitzur, a sober rightist, expressed on the pages of "Makor Rishon" his fear that this law would not be much enforced. "It is, after all, left to the discretion of the judge, and allow me to guess that judges would not be very welcoming to settlers who claim damages without proving a damage. And anyway, the law first needs to get through the Supreme Court. It could be assumed that even if they don't overturn it altogether, the judges would send the law into a long obstacle course going back and forth between Knesset and Attorney General and judges..."

In fact, at least the religious among the initiators and backers of this law could have foreseen the consequences. Just two days before pushing this law through the Knesset, they have read at their synagogues the Biblical story of Balaam the evil magician and prophet who wanted and tried with all his might to curse, only to have his curse become a blessing...

What Hitler could not do

"What Hitler failed to do is going on today in the Diaspora" stated Yaacov Ne'eman, Minister of Justice of the State of Israel. From the podium of the Presidential Conference in Jerusalem, which was convened at the initiative of Israel's President Shimon Peres, Ne'eman sharply attacked the Diaspora Jews, of whom prominent representatives were present in the hall, and reiterated that intermarriage between Jews and non-Jews constitutes the realization of Adolf Hitler's goal. "The problem in the Diaspora is not conversion, it is assimilation. Let's face the the truth, what the cursed Hitler could not do is now going on in the Diaspora, where a terrible assimilation is going on".

And there was also the brilliant stroke of threatening any journalist found on the flotilla boats with a ten-year banning from Israel – a threat which proved a bit embarassing when issued by the "only democracy in the Middle East" and was retracted a day later.

Intermarriage as the realization of Hitler's dream? Something is a bit odd here. Adolf Hitler was, to say the least, far from enthusiastic about mixed marriages. He expressed his clear opinion in the matter, not only in a long series of speeches full of hatred and venom, but also in a piece of legislation formally enacted on September 15 , 1935 and known as the "Nuremberg Law for the Protection of German Blood and German Honor": Moved by the understanding that purity of the German Blood is the essential condition for the continued existence of the German people, and inspired by the inflexible determination to ensure the existence of the German Nation for all time, the Reichstag has unanimously adopted the following Law, which is promulgated herewith: Marriages between Jews and subjects of the state of German or related blood are forbidden. Marriages nevertheless concluded are invalid, even if concluded abroad to circumvent this law. Extramarital intercourse between Jews and subjects of the state of German or related blood is forbidden".

Ten years after this infamous law was enacted, Nazi Germany was totally defeated and Adolf Hitler committed suicide among the ruins of Berlin. And three years later, on December 10 , 1948, an international gathering at Paris adopted a document which aimed at being the very opposite of Nazi murderous racism - "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights", enumerating the inalienable rights to which every human being is entitled - including Article 16: "Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family."

The right to marry and to found a family without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion! Did you know that, Mr. Justice Minister Yaakov Neeman? And the State of Israel signed this document, already in 1949. What a scandal! Who was Minister of Justice then?

Pyrrhus in Piraeus

Every morning numerous Israelis on the way to work listen to the two hour news bulletin on the Voice of Israel Radio. In the past few days, hearing veteran commentator Aryeh Golan one could have thought that Israel was facing a major invasion by a mighty fleet of dreadnaughts. After all, listeners were told that the Inner Cabinet is in almost continual session, and that Israel's Prime Minister, Defense Minister, Foreign Minister and National Security Council were all working full steam. All were exerting themselves in maintaining a very intensive contact with their counterparts in various countries, demanding and imploring them to do all in their power to stop the infamous flotilla from its impending departure towards the shores of Gaza. And the Navy gunboats and Naval Commandos were put on full alert, all leaves cancelled and reserves called, and a special exercise held at sea with the participation of the IDF Chief of Staff in person. And last but by no means least, the famed Mossad dispatched its best agents on unspecified hush hush missions...

Israeli diplomats all over the world were instructed to put on the back burner their other urgent job – opposing the threatening UN vote on Palestinian statehood – and concentrate on the more immediate flotilla threat. Propaganda Minister Yuli Edelstein mounted a major worldwide PR campaign over the sacks of sulfur with which activists on the boats were going to burn Israeli commandos to death. When these turned out to be non-existent, the unfazed Edelstein turned immediately to the information gained from highly reliable sources that known terrorists (or at least family members of terrorists, or perhaps the bosom friends of family members) were on the flotilla passenger list. And there was also the brilliant stroke of threatening any journalist found on the flotilla boats with a ten-year banning from Israel – a threat which proved a bit embarrassing when issued by the only democracy in the Middle East and was retracted a day later.

In fact it had been going on for months. Ship owners of whom flotilla organizers tried to lease boats came under mysterious pressures and cancelled the deals on the last moment – whereupon the organizers bought the boats outright. And then, Lloyds of London and other reputable insurance companies got letters from lawyers, informing them that insuring Gaza-bound boats would result in judicial suits about "support of terrorism". But the flotilla organizers found some insurers who were not intimidated. And the French Jewish leadership pleased the government in Jerusalem by nearly getting a restraining order against a boat which was due to sail from Marseilles – but at the last moment the naughty boat escaped by way of Corsica. And the State Department in Washington issued a stern warning for US citizens not to take part in the provocative voyage to Gaza, and that they might be prosecuted, and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton actually stated that Israel would be within its "right of self-defense" in using force to stop the Flotilla. All of which only served the American activists all the more determined to embark on "The Audacity of Hope" and set off (a large part of them having voted for Obama in 2008 and thus having shared in getting Clinton into position to make such threats).

By some kind of deal with the Turkish Government, Netanyahu got the Mavi Marmara – largest of the intended Gaza flotilla boats, on whose board last years' bloody confrontation took place – removed from the roster. But still this left ten boats, mostly on the shores of Greece, with hundreds of activists determined to go on to Gaza against all odds – from Canadians, American, Irish, Swedes, Britons, French, Germans, Italians, Australians – all signing a pledge of non- violent behavior towards their impending encounter with the Israeli commandos, a considerable proportion of them being Jewish, including many Israelis and former Israelis. However, Netanyahu had one string left to

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his bow. In a radio interview he gave "heartfelt thanks to my friend, George Papandreou, for his great efforts on our behalf" – which was certainly deserved.

George Papandreou, Prime Minister of Greece, is at this moment in about the most difficult and precarious position which any head of a government can find himself – being forced to yield to brutal international pressure to sign a deal which many of his fellow Greeks regard as a frontal assault on their standard of living, as well as trampling on the remnants of their country's sovereignty. In comparison, yielding also to the pressure to make life difficult to a band of peace activists hosted in Greek territory would be small change indeed.

And so, there were weeks when Greek authorities subjected the boats to endless exhausting bureaucratic procedures, the filling of one form after another – and meanwhile, boat after boat encountered mysterious disabling accidents, seeming to be the work of expert underwater saboteurs, which were reported with glee on the Israeli media ("Ha ha ha, another boat disabled, are they not careless about the maintenance?"). And yesterday morning, Greta Berlin, spokesperson of the flotilla organizers spoke loud and clear in an interview to yet another morning bulletin of the Israeli radio: "We start feeling that we are under siege, as well as the Gazans. But let it be clear – we are determined to go. If we are given more to fill, we will fill them. If more boats are sabotaged, we will repair them. And then, we are off to Gaza!"

A few hours after this defiant message was delivered, Netanyahu's best friend Papandreou dropped the guise of bureaucratic minutiae and pounced – setting his own naval commandos to do the work of their Israeli colleagues, and take over the boats and brutally restrain them from setting off to Gaza, and generously take upon himself some of the anger which should have been directed at Netanyahu. And so, "The Audacity of Hope" is at this moment held up in a Greek naval base, and its captain is in jail, and protest demonstrations take place this evening in front of Greek embassies around the world, and the switchboard at the Washingtom embassy was blocked by incoming protest calls. Also at the Greek embassy in Tel Aviv there was a protest, with Hebrew and English signs "Let the flotilla go!" and "Stop Greek complicity with occupation and siege!" and especially "Greece, shame on you!" and some scuffles and confrontations with right-wingers who had suddenly become lovers of Greece - as a year ago they had become sworn enemies of Turkey.

Is this the end of the story? Can Netanyahu consider himself to have gotten cheaply off the flotilla hook? I would advise him not to count on that.

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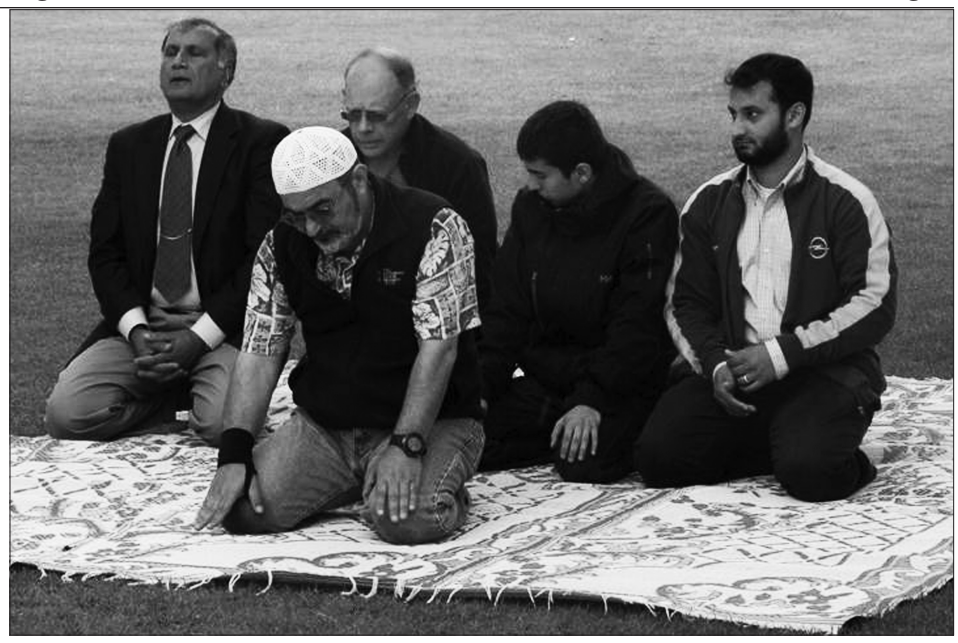


▸ **BLAINE,** continued from page 1

In May, we started exploring the possibility of conducting a vigil-demonstration on the US side of the Peace Arch border-crossing at Blaine, Washington. We started with publicizing within the Muslim communities and to non-Muslim friends, to join us and make this a success. We got the support of Kamran, fellow Muslim and owner of Digi-Copy printers who gave us expert design advice and a HUGE discount for our banners (we wanted everything to be first-class) – and even then, the cost of printing the banners came to almost $900. The publicity began; I was determined to hold the demonstration even if I went alone.

One of the problems I was faced with was the fact that most Muslims I heard from were rather apprehensive of participating in a demonstration right in front of the Customs and Immigration entry-point. I continued to hope that Muslims will overcome their reluctance to be seen and would show up.

In June, we got the permit to hold a demonstration at the Peace Arch. By this time, we had about a dozen people saying they would join with some family members...not as good as I would have liked, but a workable start.

July 17 was a cool, slightly drizzly day as I drove to the Lynnwood Park and Ride for the general rendezvous.

By departure time (10:00 a.m.) we were three people strong.

We proceeded to Blaine Peace Arch Park, where we were met by Ranger Snow, who was very pleasant. He gave us some information and told us he was there to help if we needed it. Earlier, we had asked him to be prepared in case there were any counter-demonstrations (there weren't) and so he had passed the information to Blaine Police who were ready to help us, if we needed any help.

We set up the banners and the place looked GOOD!!

Traffic was light both ways, but everyone had a good look at our banners; there were even some who honked in support, gave us the thumbs-up. We did notice that the honks were very short, almost as if the drivers did not wish to be identified by anyone else. One full van drove towards the US check-point and someone yelled, "Hey! We are Muslim!" as they waved wildly.

One of the problems I was faced with was the fact that most Muslims I heard from were rather apprehensive of participating in a demonstration right in front of the Customs and Immigration entry-point.

We had two TV stations and one radio station (including the Canadian CBC) interview us while we were there. Earlier another TV station had covered us at the rendezvous point; we had also been covered by a couple of newspapers and another three radio stations. Publicity had been good.

At 1:30 p.m. when we gathered to pray under the Peace Arch, we were joined by a Priest from Bellingham (see top photo). By this time, there were another three Muslims (five mujahideen in all) and 6-7 non-Muslims from Bellingham who came to join us briefly. We could see that for three of them, it must have been physically challenging to come, but they did; it was an honor and a pleasure to see such support for Muslim civil rights. We then shared the spiced fruit salad (Chaat) I had made in anticipation of about fifty people and I had brought drinks...there was a lot left over.

Has anyone ever noticed the juxtaposition of the flower bed designed to look like the US flag, and the traffic signs behind it reading "STOP", "WRONG WAY" AND "DO NOT ENTER"? I was amused by this ironic reflection of the surly attitude of the border agents.

At 4:00 p.m. we took down everything and headed home.

It felt good to be doing this vigil-demonstration. A couple of people suggested we should hold such vigils every month, but I am not sure if the same people would be up to it that frequently. It would certainly be a good idea to hold these vigils if and when we can muster a higher turnout from Muslim communities, because large numbers show a deep concern and could start some action by our politicians.

All in all, it was successful as far as getting the message out but it fell short in getting Muslim participation. However, now that we have seen that this demonstration was not dangerous, perhaps more people will feel encouraged to join us the next time. Sadly, since we are reasonably sure things at the government level aren't likely to change soon, there WILL be a next time!

In the meantime, the banners are available on loan to people who need them and who promise to treat them gently.

Jeff Siddiqui is a real estate agent, former chairman of the Islamic School of Seattle, and founding member of American Muslims of Puget Sound. He was also one of the first Muslims to be a Presidential Elector in 2008.

Photos by Jeff Whelan and Jeff Siddiqui

Blame and forgiveness

Further thoughts on the Tony Overman situation

Wally Cuddeford

Last month, I wrote a piece for *Works In Progress* relating to the Tony Overman situation. Since then, there are a couple updates to address, and a few loose ends to tie up:

First of all, I reported last month that the anarchists threw rocks through the windows of Tony Overman's home. I was incorrect. In this case, the vandals coated the windows of his home with some kind of acid, normally used for glass-etching (so it was reported). Usually I prefer to be more specific than that, but in this case I've made a point not to ask around for any more details of this illegal act than I need. As far as I'm concerned, the less I know of these sorts of specifics, the better. His home was attacked, just in a slightly different manner. I'm obligated to correct myself, but this difference in technical details changes nothing of my ethical / tactical analysis from last month, nor the relevance of that analysis toward activist politics in general.

It was revealed in July, in an editorial printed in the *Olympian* and the *News Tribune*, that Tony Overman was lying when he told multiple people that he never showed unpublished photographs of the 2008 May Day rock-throwers to the police. As has now been reported, Overman did indeed show these photos, straight off his camera at the scene, to police and to bank security when pressured to do so. (It was left ambiguous whether Overman confessed to this, or whether he was found out.)

Some have subsequently tried to justify (or at least excuse) the vandalism of Overman's home on the basis that it provoked a situation in which he confessed (or was discovered). Others have suggested this revelation "changes everything." I disagree, on both counts. I stand by what I wrote last month, which was written with the acknowledgment that Overnman might have indeed shared those photos after all.

My critique was not based on whether this action might achieve some specific result. My critique was to put the vandalism of Overman's home in the context of abusive behavior, and how political rhetoric can be used to give abusive behavior a phony sense of legitimacy. I don't dispute that abusive behavior sometimes brings about intended results – in fact, it (unfortunately) quite often does.

However, there's more to *all of this* than whether or not a photographer can be exposed as having provided photos to the police. There's more to *all of this* than whether consequences can be brought onto Tony Overman for sharing those photos. There's the overall political climate of Olympia, which suffered in the wake of May Day '08. There's the fact that discussion of anarchism in terms of interpersonal politics and self-governance is once again usurped by the stereotype that anarchists only know how to respond to problems with hostility – an unfair stereotype, but one which campaigns like this feed into.

Setting moral questions aside, more was lost through all of this than was gained, if indeed anything was gained at all.

It is not important that Tony Overman shared photos with police on scene at May Day '08. Given the way the rock-throwing was conducted, anyone with a cell phone could have done the same thing, and probably would not have come under such scrutiny for it. To be frank–and I must be frank here–it was a poorly organized and not well-thought out action, carrying far too much risk for its potential reward (and not to mention one that was disrespectful to the organizers of the Sanctuary City proposal, whose work was negated when their event was hijacked). This would be true even if the people who conducted the action had all evaded arrest. But they didn't evade arrest, because their entire "plan" was dependent on nobody on downtown streets having a camera. Their "plan" was dependent on complete strangers honoring the security culture which those engaged in the action did not honor themselves. Simply put, May Day '08 was not an action worth defending.

The reason this needs to be pointed out is because May Day '08 underlies the entire Tony Overman situation. We all make mistakes. It's okay to say "That was a mistake," and move on. But to keep bringing it up, to keep explaining away the failures, only makes it worse. Putting the focus on Overman, calling him a "snitch" and attacking him for allegedly sabotaging the May Day action, for allegedly being the one who sent the participants to jail, is another way of saying, "The failure wasn't mine." We don't learn from our organizing mistakes that way. We don't build a movement by doing the wrong thing (morally wrong, or tactically wrong) and persistently calling it "right." Those in power get away with those sorts of tricks, because they have power, but like it or not, we who operate contrary to power are held to a different standard. (That's why they call it "power.")

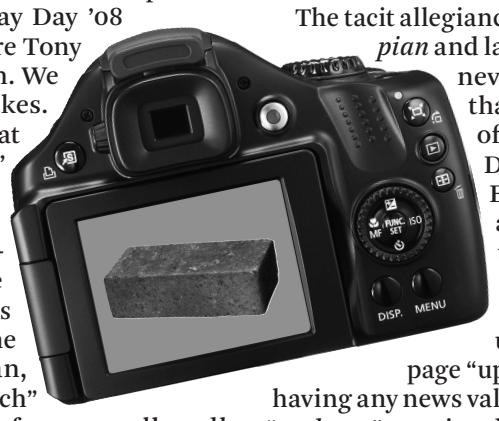
It's not important that Tony Overman shared photos. What is relevant is that he lied about it for so long – to the anarchists, to his editors, and to the community. But being guilty of lying is much different than being guilty of churning dozens of people through the "criminal justice" system. What I see is, a few people are trying to accuse him of one thing (for which they can justify their accusation), and then punishing him for another (for which they cannot justify, but for which they want their pound of flesh). That's not "accountability," and it's not appropriate.

As far as the relatively minor crime of lying to everyone, it's disappointing that Overman did that. But I think he's been put through enough. At this point, I say, let's just wait and see if he ever lies to everyone like that again.

Regarding the policy of the *Olympian* not to share unpublished photos with police, Managing Editor Jerry Wakefield wrote "We have that policy to ensure that we can be independent, unbiased observers of what goes on in our community. We are not an arm of any law-enforcement agency."

The *Olympian* has indeed acted as an arm of law-enforcement on several occasions. Routinely, *Olympian* stories are framed around the police account of events, and the "other side" is often treated as a supplemental consideration.

As it's stated, I agree with and appreciate the sentiment. But I simply cannot let that pass without pointing out that the *Olympian* has indeed acted as an arm of law-enforcement on several occasions. Routinely, *Olympian* stories are framed around the police account of events, even in situations where the actions of those police are suspect (or at the very least, non-impartial). The "other side" is often treated as a supplemental consideration. This is the way the *Olympian* framed the recent attack of Scott Yoos.



The tacit allegiance between the *Olympian* and law enforcement was never more apparent than in the aftermath of the riot outside the Dead Prez concert at Evergreen in February 2008. Even after the initial news had been reported, the *Olympian* continued printing front page "updates." Rather than having any news value, these front page "updates" consisted of little more than newly obtained images of alleged participants in the riot, with direct suggestions that anyone who recognized these people ought to call Thurston County Sheriffs immediately and turn these people in. The concert security guard, who according to several witnesses started a fight and blamed it on someone else (setting off the chain of events leading to the riot), never had his photograph posted on the front page of the paper with a caption of "Have you seen this man?" The officer who shot and killed José Ramirez-Jiménez didn't have his face printed on the front page of the paper with the caption "This man may be a murderer." Police who harass the homeless don't pick up the paper two days later to read "If you know this man, please contact the community at..."

I agree that the press shouldn't be an arm of law enforcement. However, to date the *Olympian* leaves much to be desired. I'm not so sure Overman's actions were really as aberrant from those of his employer as the employer would like us to believe.

Finally, there's a little matter that's been left out in all this talk of abuse and blame and punishment, and it's called forgiveness.

I disagree with a number of local acts of political vandalism over the last few years. Sometimes it's a moral disagreement, such as when a local church or corner store is targeted seemingly at random. Sometimes, my disagreement is more tactical. When one considers the violence purveyed across the country and across the world by, say, Bank of America, it's hard to have a moral objection to those terrible "masked protesters" breaking a few of their windows; when it's done in the manner of May Day '08, however, I'd still consider it counterproductive. But the point is, I can stand up and say "Hey, this is fucked," or "Hey, this is stupid," as long as I explain myself, and as long as I frame my position around how certain behavior is inappropriate, not how certain people are "bad people." If we believe what we say, that these behaviors are inappropriate, then only by defining those behaviors as the problem do we allow for that behavior to change, and thus we allow for personal redemption.

Jerry Wakefield of the *Olympian* concluded his editorial on the Overman situation as follows:

"Over the years he has worked in Olympia, Tony has earned the respect of his colleagues and many people in the community for his excellent photography and his professionalism. I'm convinced that these incidents represent an aberration in an otherwise unblemished career. Tony will be the subject of a disciplinary action. Then we'll move beyond this, and Tony will be back out again doing what he does best – reflecting our community through the lens of his camera."

Tony Overman did not lose his job. There's no reason to think this "disciplinary action" will be more than a slap on the wrist. Let's face it: Tony Overman has essentially been forgiven. And that's okay. I'm fine with that.

The problem is, Tony is being forgiven because he made a mistake in the service of the police. When you make a mistake that benefits the power structure, you will be given *every* chance to make that mistake again. As many times as necessary. You will be "forgiven," and "forgiven," and "forgiven."

The May Day arrestees, the State Street arrestees, and even the Dead Prez rioters (who were trying to prevent an innocent person from being taken to jail) – they aren't given the benefit of forgiveness. And they should be. They didn't kill anyone. They didn't do any irreparable harm to any innocent people. Even if we were to act on the assumption that they did wrong, if one day they wake up and say "That was a mistake, and I shouldn't have been a part of that, and I'll never do that again," they should be able to put that past behind them and move on. Like Tony Overman has (for the most part) been allowed to do.

Instead, they've been churned through the "criminal justice" system. Many of them are branded "felons" for life. Some have been the target of subsequent police harassment which makes the whole hubbub over one incident at Tony Overman's home seem out of proportion.

I'm sure some of these arrestees, especially those from May Day, have tried to put it behind them. I'm sure many of them had nothing to do with the attacks against Tony Overman. But regardless, for the May Day arrestees, it would be fair to say that, if they've been unable to put May Day behind them, it could be because our society, and its punitive, vindictive value system, does not allow them to. That's not fair to them. Inappropriate behavior is still inappropriate, but we should acknowledge this form of oppression, as we work to change it.

We need to organize in our community, and build a base for progressive and radical values. We need to oppose abuse (and the justification of abuse) in all its forms. We need to offer people an alternative to the fascism which, as people are coming to realize more and more, can only serve to terrorize, to choke away their life and freedom and dignity.

For us in Olympia, right now, a good way to start would be to put "Tony Overman" behind us, and move forward.

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The 2011 Rainbow Gathering

Somewhere under the Rainbow

Dana Walker

In order to communicate something there must be at least some elementary basis of mutual understanding. This is why it is impossible to describe the Rainbow Gathering; the Gathering is *sui generis*. There is nothing else in the world that even remotely resembles it. While it is true that there are thousands of details and descriptions I could employ in an attempt to describe the Gathering, these descriptions, while helpful, completely fail to capture the true essence. I could tell you, for instance, that the Gathering consists of 20 to 40 thousand hippies gathered in the woods. I could tell you that there are 20 to 30 kitchens spread out over several square miles of beautiful forest and meadowlands serving free food. I could tell you that there is some of the most incredible music you have ever heard around nearly every campfire every night. I could tell you that there are dozens of workshops every day covering everything from yoga to identifying medicinal herbs. I could describe the Kid Village or the Tipi Village or the Trading Circle or Lovin Ovens or I could describe the power of 40,000 people gathered together silently praying for peace in a huge meadow on the Fourth of July or the beauty of the 'om' chant that ripples around the meadow when the prayer is finished or the cheer that trembles the very earth when the 'om' chant is finished. I could describe all of these things and you would still have no idea of what the Gathering is about for the essential essence of the Gathering is the atmosphere of magic and elation that permeates every nook and cranny of every meadow and tree — and that atmosphere simply does not lend itself to description. It must be experienced firsthand.

When I encourage people to attend I usually just say that if you knew what you were missing then you wouldn't be missing it.

When I encourage people to attend I usually just say that if you knew what you were missing then you wouldn't be missing it.

It is usually axiomatic that any time anything happens look for who is making a profit by that thing happening and you will have also found the person who is making that thing happen; the Rainbow Gathering is the glorious exception to that rule. A hint of the Rainbow magic can be found in this fact: An incredible amount of time, money, backbreaking manual labour, logistics, harassment by the government, and politics goes into making the Gathering happen every year, yet in theory — and pretty much in actual fact — *no one makes any money off the Rainbow Gathering*. Everything is provided through donations. With the exception of the trading circle, everything at the Rainbow Gathering is free. (The trading circle has always been and will probably always be a controversial subject between the purists who want to keep the Gathering purely non-commercial and those who insist upon conducting trade in spite of that...) Many, in fact, give everything they have to make the Gathering happen. This is truly an incomprehensibly massive labour of love. Many scouts each spend hundreds of hours over several months bushwhacking through a variety of landscapes seeking sites for the Gathering. Every one of the 20 to 30 kitchens packs or carts in all of the equipment and food necessary to feed many thousands of people several times every day. This involves carrying many hundreds of pounds several miles through the woods on steep and often muddy footpaths; they pack in everything from 55-gallon barrels to bananas. Many of the people who do this have been doing it for decades. Miles of trails are laid out and dozens of bridges are built in order for the Gathering to happen. People spend many hours negotiating with the Forest Service and federal law enforcement officials in order for the Gathering to happen. Lawyers spend hundreds of hours writing legal briefs in order for the Gathering to happen. People often go to jail in order for the Gathering to happen. People come from all over the world and drive from all over the country in order to attend the Gathering. Upon arrival they then drive many miles on dirt roads through insane cacophonous traffic jams, clouds of dust, and a gauntlet of police harassment and intimidation before beginning the miles-long hike in order to attend the Gathering.

While some of the workers are sometimes compensated for some of their actual out-of-pocket expenses, more often than not they do these things at their own expense; virtually *all* of them do it without the least thought or expectation of any kind of financial profit.

Ask yourself: Why do they do this?

The fact that they do — and the fact they have been doing it every year for 40 years now — still fails to convey the magic of the Rainbow Gathering — but it provides a hint.

One reason is that you can find almost anything you want to find at a Rainbow Gathering. If you are looking for hypocrisy and bullshit, there is plenty to be found. If you are looking for wisdom and knowledge from some of the most amazing people in the world you can also find that. If you are looking for some truly amazing music you can find that. If you are looking for the most kick-ass party you have ever seen you can find that.

Another reason is that the Rainbow Gathering is the only place I have ever found where it is possible to be almost as completely free as it is probably possible to be. Many might give you grief or criticize whatever you are into — but nearly everyone will respect your right to be into whatever you are into as long as it is not directly causing harm to others.

Even more importantly, though, the Rainbow Gathering provides an essential alternative to the dog-eat-dog-survival-of-the-fittest model for how humans can get along together. There is an incredible diversity of people who attend the Gathering every year; everything from road dogs to doctors; from pagans to Christians, Buddhists, and Hare Krishnas; from militant political activists to militantly non-political spiritualists; from newborn babies to ancient elders who must literally be carried in — and overall almost everyone gets along with and respects each other. While there are many activities that are discouraged, there is only one hard and fast rule: The only sure-fire way to be ejected from the Rainbow Gathering is to mess with the kids. When child molesters are discovered they are invariably restrained and held for the police. Almost everything else is situational. If someone killed someone, then the police might — or might not — be called...

Once a young man who was sexually harassing girls was allowed to stay as long as he was constantly accompanied by a volunteer 24-7 everywhere he went. If you bring alcohol or hard drugs into the Gathering you will not be kicked out but so many people will give you so much grief about it that it is usually not worth it. (However, there is always a camp called 'A-Camp' located outside the main site that is generally the scene of drunken debauchery if that happens to be your cup of tea...) One year a drunken Gatherer shot a bear cub 17 times and killed it. I am sure you can imagine the complete horror a bunch of hippies are going to feel over shooting bear cubs — yet when the police showed up looking for the culprit not one single Gatherer would turn him over. He finally gave himself up when it became clear that the police would severely disrupt the Gathering if he did not.

Every time the police come onto the Gathering site wearing guns they are surrounded by a large crowd of people yelling 'no guns, no guns' everywhere they try to go. There have been instances of police actually removing their weapons and sending them outside the site. I have never heard of this ever happening in any other circumstance.

In spite of the fact that a crew spends several weeks after the Gathering is over completely erasing all trace of our presence and leaving the Gathering site better than it was originally, the government hates the Gathering. In spite of their professions of love for 'freedom', there are probably few entities that hate true freedom more than a government. (*Any* government.) Governments are into domination and control. The Rainbow Family is notorious for refusing to be dominated or controlled. Our government has been trying to stop the Gathering ever since it started. They have always failed. There are too many of us. We are too dedicated. The Rainbow Family refuses to obtain a legally required 'permit' to hold the Gathering on Forest Service land because we refuse to acknowledge the government's authority to regulate our right to peacefully assemble on public land. When government agents became unreasonable during the negotiations for this year's Gathering they were told that either they work with us or we could always move the Gathering to the middle of Interstate 5 during the holiday rush. The government knew that we could indeed — and that we would indeed — do just that.

In one of the many court cases involving the Gathering a government official complained, "There are so many of them that we cannot enforce our laws."

Exactly. That is the point.

Again: If you knew what you were missing you would not be missing it. Check it out. It will be happening again next year.

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Saints and terrorists

Humanist reflections on the life and death of Osama bin Laden

Marco Rosaire Rossi

George Orwell's essay "Reflections On Gandhi" begins with the statement: "Saints should always be judged guilty until they are proved innocent." The point was not merely rhetorical, but moral. Sainthood puts a division between the saint and those who worship him. As an ideal, Orwell observed, sainthood is fundamentally hierarchical. It is not by embracing, but by looking beyond sainthood—and treating saintly figures in the terms of their humanity—that we are able to truly appreciate "saints" and their contributions to society. For Orwell, as a saint Gandhi was "anti-human and reactionary," but as a politician, "how clean a smell he has managed to leave behind!"

It is both fortunate and a tragedy that the legacy of sainthood has mostly left modern politics. It is fortunate for the reasons Orwell described. In many ways, the collective outlook of humanity has become more grounded and realistic. But, it would be misleading to infer that this trend necessarily has meant an expansion of democratic sensibilities. Rather, it is also a product of a growing moral decay. In Orwell's time the fascination was with Gandhi and the aspiration to reach Godliness. In our own time the fascination has been with Osama bin Laden and the cowering fear of terrorism.

In both cases there is a reluctance to see "the other"—whether saint or terrorist—as uniquely human. Any accusation of sainthood or terrorism creates a division between those being accused and the lives of those affected. Sainthood obscures the true morality of the saint, while terrorism obscures the true horrors of the terrorist. As Orwell recognized, to understand the true beauty of Gandhi's nonviolent struggles it is necessary to see him as a bumbling public figure—often full of hubris, and easily embarrassed when those closest to him did not share his eccentricities in diet and medicine. By that same token, to understand the horrors of Osama bin Laden it is necessary to see him as he saw himself: as a warrior in a just cause, a man willing to sacrifice everything—his wealth, friends, personal security—to free Arab lands from western imperialism, a courageous and selfless hero following in the legacy of his faith. If saints should be judged guilty until proven innocent, then terrorists should be judged innocent until proven guilty. Their actions should be understood in their context and underlining causes, and not explained away in the terms of the uniqueness of their evil.

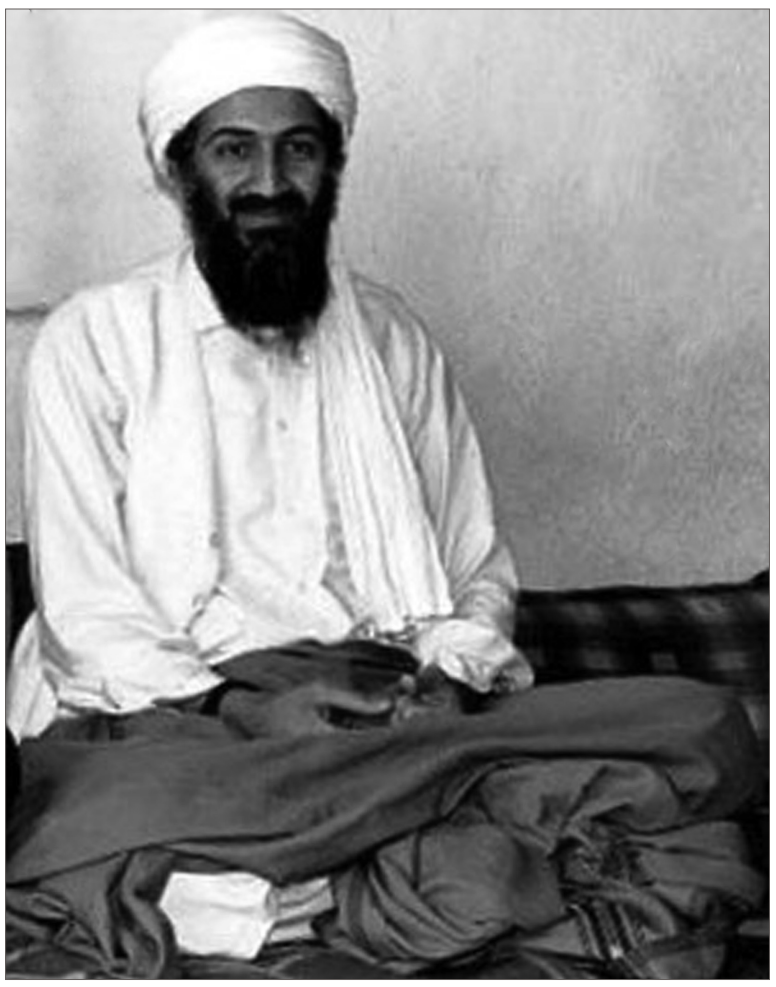
It has been too easy to draw caricatures of Osama bin Laden, something that will probably continue long after his death. In political polemics he has become a symbol, void of any real history or personality, and easily used for anyone's ends. His character has reached the same type of plasticity reserved for people like Hitler, Jesus, and Marx. For this reason it is often quite surprising to think of him as he was for most of his early life: a typical privileged member of Saudi society. Like all Saudis he was raised as an orthodox Muslim, but his father—Muhammed bin Laden—was particularly devout. Starting from scratch as a small time contractor Muhammed was able to pull himself up into the higher sections of Saudi society. Despite amassing great wealth, Muhammed and his family—which included four wives and several children (in his lifetime Muhammed married twenty-two times)--led very modest lifestyles and strictly observed religious practices.

If there was one thing about Osama bin Laden's childhood that did stand out it was his complicated home life. His father died in a plane crash while Osama was still a child. Soon after that, his mother remarried, and young Osama's family role changed from being one of the youngest among several children to being the oldest among a few. Osama's new stepfather was kind, but never able to form an intimate bond with his stepson. His relationship with his younger brothers and sisters was mostly an extension of his stepfather's authority. From early on young Osama was expected to act as a third parent. This experience created a detached sense of character in him. The only person he would open up to or discuss personal matters with was his mother.

There are conflicting accounts as to when and what caused Osama bin Laden's slide towards religious extremism—indicating that it was probably a slow bumpy process. Early in his life he did not show any particular interest in religion. He enjoyed playing soccer, and was intrigued by western cinema—especially American Westerns. According to Yossef Bodansky, bin Laden was similar to "other sons of the affluent and well-connected—breaking the strict Muslim lifestyle... frequenting flashy nightclubs, casinos, and bars." During this time he was known as a young "drinker and womanizer, who often got ... into bar brawls."

However, his teenage years were also a time of experimentation with religious piety. According to Lawrence Wright, in his book *The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*, Osama bin Laden was an extremely devout teenager. His conversion to fundamentalism was partially due to his close relationship with a charismatic gym teacher from Syria who was a member of the Muslim Brotherhood. It was in his teens that Osama bin Laden—like Gandhi—condemned western entertainment and refused to dress in western clothes. He regularly fasted twice a week—every Monday and Thursday—in an attempt to emulate the Prophet. In accordance with the requirement to pray five times a day, Osama would force himself to wake up at 1 a.m. for nighttime prayers.

It is important to recognize that this religious conversion in young Osama was not one solely occupied with metaphysical questions, but had implications for bin Laden's immediate world. It may be hard to imagine it, but Osama bin Laden was an extremely sensitive child and much of his religious extremism was rooted in this sensitivity. Islam was a spiritual, personal, and political struggle for bin Laden, and all three were intertwined. According to his mother, young Osama would often come home from school and start watching the news, only to be found weeping in front of the television over the situation in Palestine. On a deep level he seemed to believe that it was the lack of faith of all Muslims, but his in particular, which was to explain why a merciful God would allow the suffering of the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israelis. The tumultuous events in the Middle East throughout the 1970s only served to nurture bin Laden's growing fundamentalism, and sense of personal responsibility for the world around him. First was the Yom Kippur War, which was initially interpreted as a means of restoring Arab honor from the humiliating defeat of the Six Day War. Whatever pride the attack by Egypt and Syria inspired in the Arab population though, the feelings were soon transformed into a sense of bewilderment and betrayal when the military strike produced an inconclusive victor and Sadat agreed to a peace treaty with Israel. Next was the outbreak of the Lebanese Civil War. The civil war was a shock to everyone, and even today scholars are divided as to its causes. At the time, Saudi Islamists claimed that the civil war was a punishment from God. Lebanon, having violated the Koran with its western lifestyles, flashy nightclubs, and open drinking, was corrupting Arab youth and angering God. Finally, there was the assassination of the popular King Faisal bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud by his deranged nephew Faisal bin Musaid. Musaid was thoroughly westernized—having lived and received schooling from the United States. This provided Islamists in Saudi Arabia with an excellent opportunity to point out the evils of westernization, including drugs and entertainment, both of which Musaid consumed in large amounts.



To understand the horrors of Osama bin Laden, it is necessary to see him as he saw himself - as a warrior in a just cause, willing to sacrifice everything to free Arab lands from western imperialism.

It was not until the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979 that bin Laden became a notable figure in the Islamist movement. Within days of the invasion, bin Laden selflessly threw himself at the cause for all-Islamic solidarity and started organizing jihadists against the Soviets. The United States, which under the Carter administration was trying to entice the Soviet Union into invading Afghanistan in the hopes of dragging it into a Vietnam-like situation, was eager to fund the Islamic resisters in the hopes of prolonging the war. According to Peter L. Bergen, author of *Holy War, Inc.: Inside the Secret World of Osama bin Laden*, the United States and Saudi Arabia sent a combined total of $6 billion in covert weapons to the jihadists, while working with the Pakistani Inter-Service Intelligence to provide training to the rebels. By all accounts, bin Laden was a brave and dedicated warrior against the occupation. Hamza Muhammad, a Palestinian volunteer for the Mujahideen recalls that bin Laden "was a hero to us because he was always on the front lines, always moving ahead of everyone else... He not only gave his money, but he also gave himself. He came down from his palace to live with the Afghan peasant and the Arab fighter. He cooked with them, ate with them, dug trenches with them. That was bin Laden's way."

When the Soviets were eventually driven out, bin Laden returned to Saudi Arabia as a local hero, and started on a lecture circuit around various mosques preaching the virtues of Islam and the need for jihad. It is important to note that at this time bin Laden did not advocate violence towards Americans. Since the early 1980s he had been calling for a boycott of American goods to counter the effects of westernization on the Arab world, but was not an advocate of terrorism against the US. After all, it was partially due to the United States that he was able to wage a successful campaign against the Soviets. It was not until the first Gulf War that bin Laden began a conscious violent campaign against the US. Even though Saddam had signaled to the Saudis that he had no intention of pushing his invasion of Kuwait into Saudi Arabia, the royal monarchy panicked at the possibility. In order to provide a military deterrent against an Iraqi invasion, bin Laden petitioned the Saudi monarchy to allow him to raise an army of Islamic militants across the Saudi border. King Fahd was not persuaded by this plea, and instead welcomed US forces into Saudi Arabia. The move by King Fahd may have provided the monarchy with a sense of security, but its long-term consequences were disastrous. Not only did bin Laden interpret the presence of US forces as a snub, but also as a blasphemous act against the Koran. His view was shared by leading senior Muslim clerics at the time who believed that the royal family was openly ignoring the Prophet's prohibition on infidels on the Arabian Peninsula. Aside from the theological argument, the presence of US bases in Saudi Arabia was deeply resented by Arabs for political reasons. A 2006-2008 Gallup poll found that in Egypt—a country were Islamism had been brutally repressed for decades—sixty percent of the population believed that their opinions of Americans would improve if the US bases were moved off the Peninsula. The words of the Prophet aside, US bases on the Peninsula appeared as another sign of western imperialism in the region.

It was at this point that bin Laden turned his energies violently towards the United States. Originally based in Sudan, bin Laden began organizing and funding terrorist operations throughout the region. In 1998, he helped organize simultaneous bombings of American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing more than 200 people. In 2000, he organized another suicide bombing in Yemen against members of the USS Cole, killing 17 people. And finally, perhaps

▸ **CONTINUED** on next page

the single most devastating terrorist attack outside of war, he helped organize the September 11th hijackings which killed nearly 3,000 people.

How the United States government responded to the September 11th attacks was exactly how bin Laden anticipated. Like with the Soviets, he wanted to entice Americans to invade the Middle East in the hopes of draining their economy and increasing resentment for the west among Arabs. In his "The Towers of Lebanon" speech delivered on October 29th, 2004 bin Laden openly stated that Al Qaeda's goal had never been to defeat the United States militarily. Admittedly so, that was impossible. Rather, the point of the attacks was to lure the United States into endless military conflicts and weaken its economic infrastructure in order to "bleed America to the point of bankruptcy, by God's will."

When Osama bin Laden was assassinated on May 1st many celebrated his death as a victory for the US, but it is impossible to deny that bin Laden's three main goals—to drive the US into economic turmoil, to provoke Americans into long drawn out conflicts in the Middle East, and to die a martyr for his jihadist cause—were achieved. Considering all this, the assassination should be thought as—at best—a tie. The United States, whether unwittingly or not, have always seemed to give bin Laden exactly what he wanted. He was well aware of the fact that his perception in the western world was that of the pinnacle of all that is evil, and played off this perception in the Arab world both to win sympathy and provoke attacks.

The global war on terror is based on the idea that terrorism is an enemy and not a tactic; all that is needed to defeat it is superior force and skill. This conception essentializes terrorism to the point of being incomprehensible. If terrorism is, as it is defined by the United Nations Security Council, "criminal acts... with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public... (to) compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act," then it is important to first ask the question: Why does someone want to compel a government or international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act? Without first asking that question, the whole concept of terrorism is nothing but a series of mindless acts violence, a product of evil people which can only be addressed through further violence. When we lose the humanity underlying all acts of terrorism, the sense of hopelessness and despair, we send the world into a self-destructive spiral of violence: terrorism provokes counter-terrorism, which provokes terrorism, which provokes counter-terrorism. That was something that Osama bin Laden was keenly aware of, and analysts in the west never seemed to understand.

Unfortunately, the assassination of Osama bin Laden has done nothing to cure the west of this misunderstanding, and has only been another example of it. For the first week in May the death of Osama bin Laden consumed the American consciousness. Pundits could not comment on the state of world affairs without first passing through the tunnel of Osama bin Laden's assassination. But, just as strangely as it had begun, it ended. Not with a universal ceremony or momentous cathartic cry, but with a shrug. Collectively, Americans looked around, and without saying anything assumed that everyone was in agreement over the event. By late May, comments on Osama bin Laden's death evaporated from America's discourse. By June bin Laden's death was easily surpassed in importance by the Anthony Wiener sex scandal. The man who many Americans believed to be the embodiment of evil was in a matter of weeks remarkably insignificant. For many Americans Osama bin Laden's assassination was the fast food version of closure around September 11th; it was something that was extremely excitable at first, but once devoured a person is left with a lingering sense of guilt, knowing that there were healthier options to chose from.

What Americans have decided to do with Osama bin Laden's death is the worst thing that should be done with it. By looking at it as the death of a terrorist, rather than the assassination of a human being, they have become apathetic towards the whole bin Laden phenomenon. Understanding the horrors of Osama bin Laden involves moving past the clichés of him being somehow supernaturally evil. Commentaries like Elie Wiesel's set a moral trap for Americans. After the assassination Wiesel said "The execution of a human being—any human being—should never be an event to be celebrated," but with bin Laden, "this time is different." Wiesel's words were echoed by others. Andrew Sullivan commented that "As a Christian I am asked to pray for the soul of Osama bin Laden, not celebrate his death... But this is also true: the joy will not leave me either, and I am not ashamed of it in the slightest." Comments like these are not a sign of piety, but of hypocrisy. They give Osama bin Laden a sense of evil so grand that it is detached from ourselves as people. In dealing with bin Laden, normal rules of morality need not apply; no one is obligated to put the devil on trial, or worry about international laws, or allow his family a chance to give him a proper burial—only vanquish him.

When we lose the humanity underlining all acts of terrorism, the sense of hopelessness and despair, we send the world into a self-destructive spiral of violence: terrorism provokes counter-terrorism, which provokes terrorism, which provokes counter-terrorism.

The only way to understand Osama bin Laden—and thus fully understand the impact of his death—is to humanize him. To do that, it is necessary to see Osama bin Laden as he was: a dedicated but very scared and confused man; a man who clung to a hodgepodge of fairy tales and political propaganda for comfort; a man who bitterly held onto the faith that if he could just be a better Muslim—and convince others to be better Muslims—then he would somehow be able to get the pain of seeing Palestinians suffering on the television out of his heart. When we look at bin Laden from this perspective we see that at the center of all his evil was a desire to do good, and this makes his evil all that more horrendous. The horrors that he unleashed on this world are never far beyond any of us. That reason alone should inspire us all to do whatever good we can in the short time we have on this planet. It is not necessary that we, like Gandhi, all become saints—only that we constantly strive to be more human.

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Gaza Flotilla: Seige you later

It's looking as if the planned flotilla to Gaza has run aground on Greek intransigence. Weeks after they were due to sail, the ships are still being held in Greek harbours. In one way it's a testament to the Israeli government's fear of the lifting of the Gazan siege that they've gone to such lengths to prevent a small amount of humanitarian aid reaching the Gaza Strip by sea.

Since the Mavi Marmara debacle in 2010 when Israeli commandos shot and killed nine activists and stormed the entire fleet to prevent it reaching port, the Israeli authorities have been desperate to avoid another high seas showdown.

This time around tactics have been far sneakier. One boat at least has been the victim of mysterious sabotage. Pressure on the Greek government has led to an embargo on the flotilla leaving. The Greek and Israeli governments are strongly allied - carrying out joint military manoeuvres on a regular basis and with the Greeks buying Israeli military technology.

Nine vessels, including two cargo ships, are still blocked in various Greek ports, while the Irish ship Saoirse is in a Turkish port undergoing repairs for alleged sabotage suffered two weeks ago. One U.S. ship cheekily dubbed the 'Audacity of Hope', carrying 36 passengers, four crew and about 10 members of the media, attempted to run the blockade on the same day it was announced, and was seized by Greek commandos. The captain, John Klusmire, is being held in custody charged with 'trying to leave port without permission and of endangering the lives of passengers.'

Not all the obstruction has taken place on the water. The bizarre saga of 'Marc' shows the lengths the Israelis are prepared to go to. A month or so ago a Youtube video started going the rounds. (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vhmBbGFJleU) It purported to be the story of an LGBT activist who decided to get involved with the Freedom Flotilla as he felt they must be a cross between 'Che Guevara and Mother Teresa'. He was then apparently asked to leave the flotilla on account of his sexuality. In fact the whole thing was a hoax - Marc is none other than Israeli actor Omer Gershon and the video nothing more than a blatant attempt at pinkwashing the occupation.

Flotilla activists have vowed not to give up the struggle and are organising demos outside Greek embassies across the world.

(Follow events at www.freegaza.org)

Like it or Lumpur it

We had the Arab spring - what about one in South East Asia? Not if the Malaysian government has anything to do with it. On July 9th, the 'elected' dictatorship stamped aggressively on a peaceful mass demo in the capital, Kuala Lumpur, organised by a leftish collective group called BERSIH (Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections). And with the same 'National Front' party having been in power since independence in 1957 they've surely got a point.

But the city was swiftly in full-on Police State mode as 7,000 cops with helicopter support attempted to lock down the centre, blocking public transport and access routes. They attacked peaceful marchers (estimated at more than 20,000 by participants and only 6,000 by cops) with major tear gas assaults, also making mass arrests (around 1,500) and undertaking arbitrary searches of buildings and hotels looking for march supporters. All the left leaning politicians and organisation leaders had already been arrested before the demo began but the majority of marchers managed to organise themselves and rally round to protect each other from the worst of the police onslaught.

This isn't the first time people have taken to the streets in Kuala Lumpur - there were two big demos in 2007 that the state responded to in a similar fashion and the regime continues to send its people a stern message: "Freedom? Don't even think about it, you must think we were Borneo yesterday..."

(For more see www.bersih.org)

Lyons led by donkeys

Michael Lyons served as a medical assistant submariner for six years before he was expelled from the navy for thinking and feeling. He was due to begin a two-week rifle course at HMS Excellent, a shore base in Portsmouth, last September but refused pre-deployment, asking instead to be put to a non-combat role.

In court he confirmed he had all his physical and mental faculties, and his objections to orders rose from personal convictions, not madness. Well we've got a live one. 'My initial objections started with Afghanistan and I wanted to investigate the reasons why we were at war. At the time WikiLeaks came along and mentioned Iraq and Afghanistan. The reports said there had been some civilian casualties that nobody knew about and they were being covered up,' he said.

Lyons had already been told he couldn't treat Afghan civilians, which added to his uneasiness about going to war. Apparently medics cannot have such scruples but just be good at putting up and shutting up - and learning how to shoot people. To put more froth in the juice the appeal as a conscientious objector status 'probably' failed due to him being an atheist rather than an ordinary God fearing good little boy. Lyons was ordered to see a Chaplain despite his anti-religious convictions, after which the Chaplain stated it was a political, rather than a moral objection.

Without the defence that he was refusing on religious grounds, this conscientious person was found guilty of disobeying a lawful order at his court martial in Plymouth on July 5.

And finally. . .

'We walked in the cold air, freezing breath on a window pane. Lying and waiting, a man in the dark in a picture frame.' The lyrics from seminal 80s new wave anthem 'Vienna' have little to do with this story, but there is a man from Vienna in it and he appears in a picture frame - on his driving license - wearing a sieve on his head; a piece of headwear even the suave Midge Urgh couldn't make look cool.

Niko Alm did it in protest of Austrian laws which state that only the religiously committed can wear head coverings in official photos. So he declared himself a 'pastafarian' and fought for three years to win the right to sport a colander in worship of the durum wheat foodstuff. Authorities showed a stereotyped lack of a sense of humour about the whole thing, but had to eventually relent as the regulations say that as long as the facial area is uncovered, anything goes.

It must have been a strain, but at least Niko eventually proved that the penne is mightier than the word.

▸ **HONDURAS,** continued from page 1

Facussé and several other underhanded landlords. The Aguán valley, located in northern Honduras, is an incredibly militarized region where curfew is still in place in some regions. This valley is extraordinarily fertile, attracting foreign investors in African palm cultivation for export as biodiesel and palm oil. Some farming communities have been displaced for over a decade, migrating from one palm plantation occupation to the next in violent eviction processes. The author was present during an attempted eviction of a community from the land it had been holding for 11 years.

Scorched earth in Rigores

On July 1, 2011, a group of 18 U.S. and Canadian citizens traveling as human rights delegates with Alliance for Global Justice and Rights Action arrived at the community of Rigores, as a response to an alert that police were scheduled to evict these campesinos from their land. Upon arriving, delegates learned that about 120 families had already been evicted on Sunday, June 26, and that the police were on their way to remove them from the community center in which they were taking refuge so that the campesinos would not return to the land where their homes had stood a week earlier.

Shortly after the delegates arrived, around 9 am, they received word that the police were approaching Rigores via a side street, burning houses along the way. The delegation traveled along with community members to the site and stood in a line facing the police, who were slowly approaching. Some took position by hiding behind vegetation. One sniper hid behind a tree throughout the encounter. This highly militant aspect contrasted with the respectful attitude presented by these heavily armed men. Community leaders, local human rights activists and delegates spoke to the police chief for about 45 minutes about the legality of the eviction. When asked for the eviction order, the chief presented a document of complaint that cited an event involving "heavily armed campesinos" which had supposedly occurred on June 30, though it was signed by a judge on June 11. No eviction order was presented. After about three hours the police finally left; however, the risk that they could return remains.

The delegation members collected testimony from the campesinos about the violence perpetrated by police forces on June 26. One woman's account detailed the brutality with which the police tore these campesinos away from their land. The police entered her home with guns drawn and pointed menacingly at her family members. They pulled a mattress out from under her four small children, who rolled onto the floor, treated "like little rats." A cop asked for her identification card and promptly burned it. These police, including a special forces COBRA unit, known for decades of human rights violations, poured gasoline around her house and set it on fire, leaving no time to collect any belongings. After this violent process, several pregnant women either gave birth or miscarried due to the physical and emotional stress of these events.

Animals such as dogs, cats, and chickens were set on fire or left to burn. Acres of community corn fields were scorched. These shameless police forces reportedly walked through the orange tree fields cutting branches off the plants and eating the fruit. They also confiscated a pig and other livestock, as well as a tractor given to the community by ALBA, the Latin American trade alliance. The brutality with which this eviction was carried out is clearly an illegal violation of human rights as part of the heavily escalated violence that still penetrates Honduran police and military forces. The United States government is pouring taxpayer dollars into this militarization, as it has been doing in Honduras for decades. One example of this horrible waste of money is the U.S. air force base of Palmerola.

Protest at Palmerola Air Base

On the morning of June 28, around 200 people gathered a few miles away from the entrance to Palmerola Air Base, which is located in Honduras but is used by the United States Air Force. The marchers proceeded towards the main gate to denounce the US's military presence and its role in the overthrow of Honduras' democratically-elected government on June 28, 2009. The plane that sent Honduras' president Manuel Zelaya into exile on that day flew from the capital, Tegucigalpa, to Palmerola before continuing in the opposite direction to Costa Rica.

The protest was organized by COPINH, the Civic Counsel of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras, which works to oppose multinational mining, agricultural, tourism, and hydroelectric energy projects. These projects, which have been fast-tracked under the post-coup government, work the current system to cheat Garifuna, Lenca, and other Honduran people out of their farms and land.

Campesinos in the aftermath of the destruction of their community. Photo: Roger Harris

Also attending the march were about 25 citizens of the United States, who were present to monitor police behavior, to support COPINH's anti-exploitation struggle, and to protest the misuse of taxpayer money on militarization in Honduras. The march followed a 2-day anti-militarization conference in La Esparanza, Honduras, with the participation of delegates from Brazil, Costa Rica, Canada, the U.S., El Salvador, and Nicaragua, to name a few.

Traffic on the highway was blocked for over an hour. At one point, a young Honduran activist got too close to the wall of the air base, bearing a large stencil and a can of spraypaint, and a police officer (dressed in military garb) pulled him to the ground in a stranglehold. As other marchers, including an elderly Lenca woman, approached the scene, the police pointed rifles at them menacingly. Without warning, at least two tear gas canisters were fired and the marchers fled down a nearby street, then promptly continued the march. No one was detained or severely injured, although some emerged with bruises and cuts sustained from baton strikes.

Upon reaching Palmerola's main gate, there was a rally in the driveway in which the people chanted, "Yankee trash out of Honduras!" and "More food, zero weapons!" The crowd also remembered the hundreds of activists that were shot and killed by the police in the 2 years since the coup, chanting, "Present with us today, tomorrow, and always, they keep on living through our struggle!"

A call to action

The attitude of the Obama Administration towards the Honduran government is one of acceptance and encouragement. U.S. citizens have, albeit limited, power to influence representatives to cut the flow of money into the hands of the corrupt and violent Honduran oligarchy. The money sent for militarization in Honduras would much better serve the public interest, paying for education and healthcare domestically.

The transnational economic and military forces that are violently oppressing the creative and youthful resistance in Honduras are the same forces which are working against the personal and collective freedoms of North Americans. There are thousands of ways in which we can each fight these giants, and of course, together we are stronger. To debilitate the Honduran oligarchy, international and Honduran activists are needed in both countries.

One very needed role for international activists is that of accompanier, or human rights observer. Local organizations are calling for Spanish-speaking activists to join long-term international accompaniment teams here which monitor human rights violations and live in communities in which militarization is escalating, such as Zacate Grande and in the Aguán valley. International accompaniment allows local organizers to continue with their work with a highly decreased risk of state violence. For more information on accompaniment, go to campamentoshonduras.blogspot.com or www.friendshipoffice.org/honduras.

Caitlin Payne Roberts, a graduate of Evergreen, is currently in Honduras with an Alliance for Global Justice human rights delegation. She is working on an audio documentary about community radio in resistance, which will be completed by summer's end and will be sent to numerous radio stations internationally for broadcast. This radio project is being supported by Media Island International.

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WIP History

Honduras before the coup

Marco Rosaire Rossi
From the January 2009 *WIP*

(*Note: This article, originally titled "Honduras moves to the left," was printed before the US-backed coup of Manuel Zelaya in June 2009)*

In late August, inside a capital city in Central America, a giant banner was hung portraying Cuba's revolutionary leader Fidel Castro, Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, Nicaragua's President Daniel Ortega and Bolivia's President Evo Morales. The banner advocated the signing of ALBA—which in English stands for the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas and means "dawn" in Spanish. ALBA is a trade agreement between Latin American countries that supports the principles of solidarity, non-interference, respect for independence, complementarity, and fair trade, a trade agreement that the United States is strongly opposed to. In the streets, tens of thousands of supporters gathered to support ALBA. They waved their national flag, but also the Venezuelan one, and held banners supporting the Sandinistas and the FMLN. Socialist and anti-imperialist rhetoric was on the lips of both the speakers and the supporters.

This capital wasn't Managua, or Havana—traditional places where one would hear such remarks—it was Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The people were celebrating President Zelaya's signing of the ALBA agreement, making Honduras the sixth member of the fair trade alliance. This past October, Honduras' congress approved the deal, solidifying the membership.

Twenty years ago, the idea that Honduras would sign a trade agreement that the United States was so adamantly opposed to would have been unthinkable. Historically, Honduras has been one of the United States' strongest allies in the region. The country was used as a jumping point for the 1954 CIA coup against President Árbenz in Guatemala.

In the 1980s, the country was used as a contra training ground and military base during the United States' war with Nicaragua. Many of the "disappeared" during that war "disappeared" over the border into Honduras. However, in the rapidly changing political landscape of Latin America, traditional alliances are breaking. At the signing of the ALBA agreement President Zelaya announced that "Honduras did not ask permission from any imperialist country to join ALBA," giving a slight not-so-covert jab towards the United States. He went on, "Today, we are taking a step towards becoming a government of the center-left, and if anyone dislikes this, we'll just remove the word 'center' and keep the second one."

In the 1980s, the country was used as a contra training ground and military base during the United States' war with Nicaragua. Many of the "disappeared" during that war "disappeared" over the border into Honduras.

Honduras' move from far right to center-left has been a long time coming. According to legend, the last words of infamous North American filibuster William Walker (who invaded Central America and attempted to annex it on behalf of the southern slave-holding states) were, "What the United States does not conquer through the gun, it will be able to conquer through the dollar." Walker was executed by a firing squad in Honduras. His legacy still looms there. For most of Honduras' history, Walker's prophecy has been true. As far back as Woodrow Wilson, and perhaps even further, Honduras' economy has been partial to the desires of the United States. The country's fate was essentially determined by how well the US State Department and the United Fruit Company could compromise on a given issue. Today, the United States receives almost 40% of the country's exports (while the rest of Latin America only exports 27% to the U.S.).

Its agricultural industry is designed to produce mostly niche luxury goods such as bananas, coffee, shrimp and melons instead of staples like corn, rice, or beans. It ranks 115 out of 177 on the United Nations human development index, and is the fourth poorest country in the Americas. It's this poverty that has been the chief engine driving change in the country.

Even though Honduras has seen a 6-7% economic growth, (a figure that has recently slowed) its wealth has been restricted to the upper classes. The country still has not fully recovered from the ravages of Hurricane Mitch, which wiped out 70–80% of the nation's transportation infrastructure. And, like all poor nations, it is suffering under the rapidly rising cost of food. Meanwhile, other countries in Latin America that have adopted the fair trade model continue to see not only economic growth, but also an end to poverty. Cuba's welfare programs have made it a leader in human development for Central America—second only to Costa Rica. Since 2004, Venezuela's economic growth has not only bordered on double digits, but the country has also experienced increases in literacy, education, and health. "We are open to association processes among States to achieve development, eliminate inequalities, overcome asymmetries and share knowledge and resources," President Zelaya told the newspaper *Prensa Latina* on the day he signed the ALBA agreement.

These alternative economic models have become attractive to Honduras, which has grown frustrated by the United States for not doing more to help the country out of poverty. Even before joining ALBA, President Zelaya signed the country up for Petrocaribe, a program started by Venezuela that offers cheap oil to 18 countries around the Caribbean basin. Now, under ALBA, Honduras hopes to strike even better deals and catch up to some of its counterparts. Venezuela has already offered to buy $100 million worth of Honduran bonds, whose proceeds will be spent on housing for Honduras' poor. Venezuela has also offered to buy $30 million worth of credit for farming, 100 tractors, and 4 million low-energy light bulbs—which will be installed by Cuban technicians—in order to promote energy conservation.

In exchange, Honduras has offered up the right to look for oil in and around the country to an ALBA run company, whose findings will be shared by the member states collectively.

Economic development is definitely a priority for the Zelaya administration, but the true hope in signing ALBA is greater independence. Zelaya's signing speech in August was full of remarks on the greater sovereignty that the country will gain through the trade deal, commenting how signing ALBA is "an act of freedom, because we are a free and sovereign people" and that "we [Latin American nations] are not born slaves nor to have masters."

Economically, part of this sovereignty means closing the trade deficit and converting to a more self-sufficient economy. Currently, Honduras exports $100 million to ALBA countries, while importing $170 million. Politically speaking though, sovereignty may be more difficult. The influence of the US still looms large in the country, so much so that after the passing of ALBA, Enrique Flores Lanza, an advisor to Zelaya, had to reinforce the notion that Honduras was the first "non-aligned country" – meaning it won't be too outspoken about US intervention in the region.

Either way, the signing of ALBA and the support it has from grassroots movements indicates that the prophecy of William Walker on the conquest of the dollar in Latin America may be coming to an end. Simón Bolívar, the 19th Century revolutionary who led Latin America towards its independence from Spain, once remarked that "The United States seems destined by Providence to plague the American continent with misery in the name of liberty." It is to everyone's benefit that the people of Latin America seem just as destined—and able—to resist that misery.

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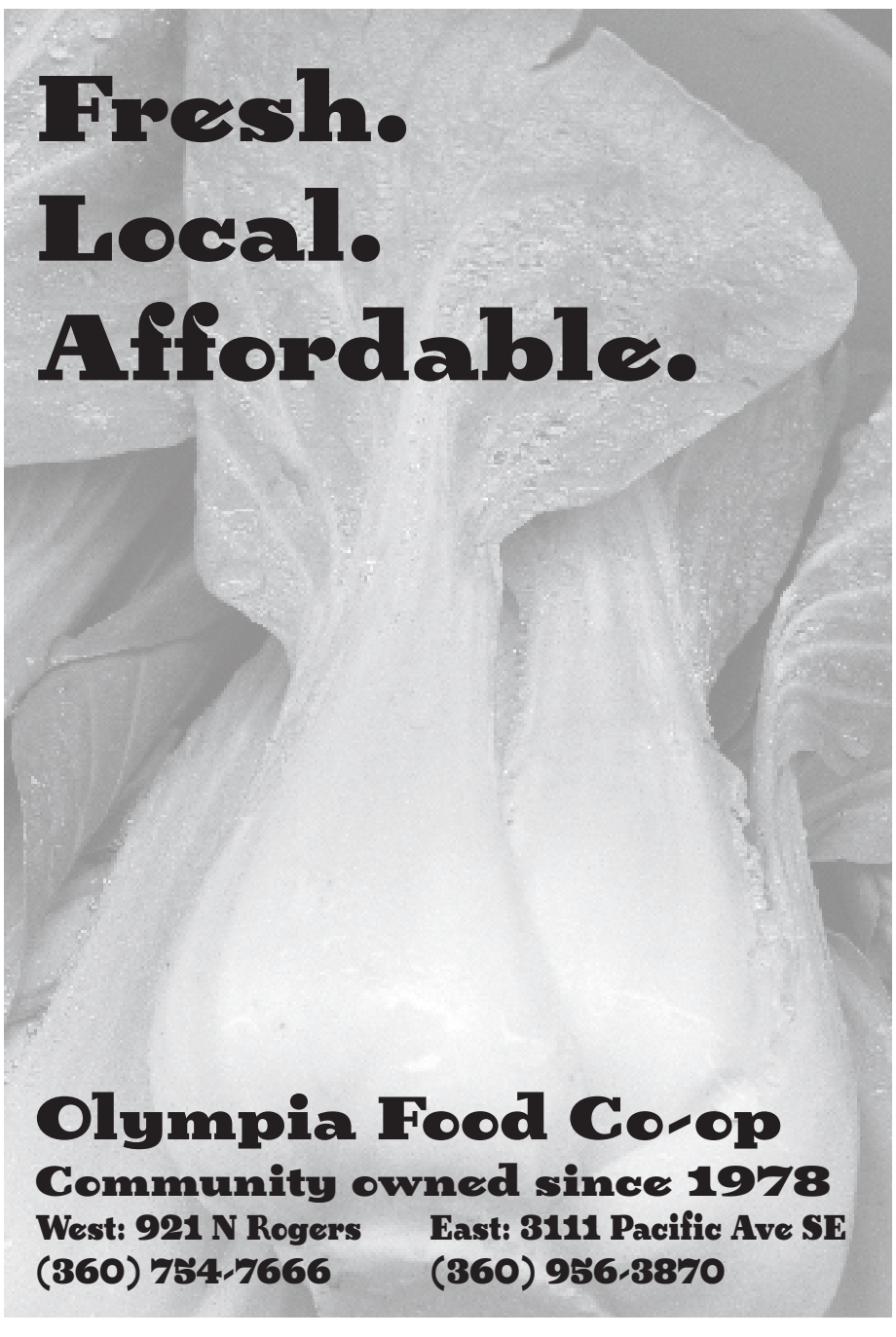

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A medical paradigm shift is needed

and Portland is leading the way

Carole Willey, BSW

A medical paradigm shift is needed for people with emotional needs – people who have been traumatized by war, by domestic violence, by harm, by rape, by bullying, by ridicule, by harsh criticism, by verbal abuse, by psychological abuse, by racism, by hatred, by grief (a natural healing process), etc. Combined, this becomes a varied and institutionalized assault on the citizens of the world, in medicine, in education, and in the military, to name a few places.

These same people that are victimized are our friends, family, neighbors, classmates, colleagues, and associates. These same people, if emotional for a few minutes, a few hours, or a few days in our present society, are diagnosed with mental illness. But we must remember, we are all traumatized in some degree or another.

The Consumer/Survivor/Expatient (C/S/E) Movement in Portland is challenging the next DSM edition and debating its usage, its practice, and its non-scientifically, unproven paradigm of medical system.

Yet psychiatrists and medical doctors are diagnosing all these normal behaviors as irregular. Even the inability to read, write, or do arithmetic is now a mental illness that can be treated. Yes! You can get a pill and make you to do better in school? That's right! The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Fourth Edition (DSM-IV), currently identifies these "illnesses" on pages 50, 51, & 53. [Diagnostic Criteria for Reading-315.00, Math-315.1, Writing-315.2] Psychiatrists do not consider the impact of learning disabilities, neurological nerve damage, or other fine motor problems; now, these are considered abnormal *behaviors*, to be treated with drugs. Now these mental illnesses are treatable thanks to psychiatrists, to pharmaceutical companies and their stockholders, insurance companies and their stockholders, and our state and federal government, who allow this model of care.

U.S citizens are medical commodities to make a profit from – whether you are really sick or not, whether you are helped or not, whether you are harmed or not. They are attempting to codify normal, natural behavior to be abnormal behavior, and doctors are buying into it. Making profits off of people's illnesses—whether they are helped or not, whether they healed or not—is the norm in America.

Are you wondering, how can this happen, and how did it happen?

What in the hell is the DSM-IV?

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition (or DSM-IV) started out solely as an insurance coding tool for doctors, to be used for reimbursing payment of medical treatments. The DSM is how all of society observes, labels, classifies, and categorizes mental behavior and mental illness. Through the DSM, psychiatrists identify what our society views as normal or abnormal. Put all this together, and many normal behaviors are labeled as abnormal.

The Fifth Edition of the DSM is being written right now. Deadlines for completion have been moved back until 2013, with much heated debate over the possibility of new diagnoses. The Consumer / Survivor / Expatient (C/S/E) Movement in Portland is challenging the next DSM edition and debating its usage, its practice, and its non-scientifically, unproven paradigm of medical system. In this movement, various venues across this country are honestly dialoguing, debating, and demanding changes and a moving towards overhauling this healthcare and mental health system—and rightfully so.

The consumer/survivor movement has been debating healthcare reform for four decades. This movement started in Portland forty years ago, and they are at the center of national debates to reform the current mental health system using a biochemical model saying that there is an chemical imbalance of the brain that causes abnormal behavior. We in the CAM (Complimentary Alternative Medicine) communities are saying that, due to mostly nutritional-based imbalance, it is a chemical imbalance of nutrients, not neurotransmitters theory that allopathic medicine uses.

What is frightening is that our healthcare system is built on a theory, a hypothesis that is over 100 years old, and the current system wants to keep it that way. Consumers / survivors want choices, they want funding for treatments and they want insurance companies to pay for them. They want their health restored. They want all mental health workers to recognize that their training, their education, and their work experience has been based on the pharmaceutical companies forming the very practice of western medicine.

Senator Chuck Grassley of the US Senate Finance Committee, has investigated the pharmaceutical companies' donations, between 2004 and 2010. Among the many recipients of pharmaceutical corporation money were: family physicians, pediatric physicians, psychiatrists, the American Psychiatry Association, public universities and their medical schools, psychiatric research scientists, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), and 33 other non-profit organizations including TeenScreen. What Grassley has not investigated are pharmaceutical companies' donations to academia text books and their authors.

All that the American society accepts about mental illness has been formed by the pharmaceutical companies for the last five decades. And much of it does not meet the standards of some non-allopathic medical approaches.

A new, innovative paradigm shift in medicine is very much needed. We need to shift away from a biochemical imbalance model of healthcare, toward a nutritional-based, natural-based treatment of Orthomolecular Medicine and other models of care that include indigenous-based care.

Why haven't I heard about the C/S/E Movement?

In Washington state, the C/S/E Movement sadly did not exist until 2006. Five years ago few people in this state had not heard of this national and international movement. Not surprising then that in Washington State, every attempt to have a consumer movement has been killed by various groups. This is an oppressive state in some venues; people are advocating change, and they are not heard.

In the last decade, healthcare debates and reform have tried to move to a more accessible, quality healthcare system, but these attempts have failed nationally. Our society should not wait until the US government decides managed care is not working—let's create medical collectives, or do what Vermont did and pass Single payer healthcare system. I'll even work on new legislation that would support and pass an inclusive, single-payer, patient-centered, patient-driven, patient-directed care. Each of us should make our own choice of care, inclusive of Complementary, Integrative, Alternative Medicine and Orthomolecular Medicine for mental health treatment.

This movement is commonly called the consumer / survivor movement, but is the next great movement in the U.S., co-existing with many new political movements we have today. Other movements just don't know about us. This is my attempt to not only introduce our community to this, but to welcome any dialogue with like-minded people to discuss the new emerging models of care through natural, independent or alternative practitioners.

▸ **STRIFE,** continued from page 3

Looking back in retrospect, what do you think about the State Street march? Some people will say, "Oh, this guy was arrested in one of those black bloc marches, so it doesn't matter if the police harass him. He deserves whatever he gets." What do you say to that?

That doesn't really make sense, when you think about it. People participate in black bloc actions for different reasons. The anarchist movement is never as unified and monolithic as the media likes to imply. There is no central committee dictating policy or coordinating actions. Personally, I marched that night against police brutality and to hand out flyers to people so they would become more aware of the truly horrific situation that people of color, homeless folks, and the poor face every day, being treated like second class citizens. Despite the fact I didn't engage in any illegal behavior, I was framed and served two months in jail, possibly in retaliation for my music, but definitely in retaliation for my politics. Even if you're of the opinion that I deserved jail time for going to the protest, I served the sentence and my participation in this event shouldn't be a blank check for the powerful to watch my every move and nullify my rights to free speech and to protest grievances. Trust me, no one wants a coercive society where certain people have the power to define which ideas are acceptable and which ideas are so abhorrent you shouldn't even be allowed to debate them. How can you have freedom of thought in a society where you are not allowed to discuss large uncomfortable truths? As Voltaire said, "I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say them."

How do you think your arrest at the State Street demo relates to the current harassment against you by OPD?

Stick your neck out long enough you get it chopped off, right? Only if you haven't built a network of solidarity and a community of friends who are willing to snatch the executioner's blade. That's why I'm finally exposing this harassment. There's nothing particularly special about me. I'm outspoken, I'm a poet, I'm an activist, that's true. But lots of people fit those categories and received similar if not worse treatment from the establishment. I am coming forward with these FOIA documents (available at www.olywip.org) in the hope that other people who are going through the same thing will come forward and tell their stories so we can have community dialogue and hold the powerful accountable for their abuse, so we can unify and reverse the dampening effect that the Towery situation has had on our ability to effectively organize and resist the machinations of the powerful.

What do you hope to see going forward, both in our community, and in your own situation?

I hope to be able to live and organize in Olympia for a long time. I hope this exposé convinces the establishment to end its attempts to silence me through overt and covert means. I see our movement overcoming all of this political repression and getting off the ropes to take the ring once more and knock these bullies straight on their asses. I hope to help unify the divergent groups and remind people that we all have the same foes in this fight and that right now, we may not have it all together, but together we could have it all.

Some examples of the goals of the Mental Health Recovery Movement, revised by Carole Willey, from the Next Steps Conference Session May 14, 2011 – Rethinking Psychiatry Two-Day Symposium – Portland, OR

In five to ten years:

- The DSM-V's use is defined as solely for insurance coding, and not to be used for diagnosing,
- End direct consumer advertising in all forms of media, and end direct mailings of drugs to all customers & criminalize this act,
- Institutionalize Orthomolecular Medicine in all institutions (health, education, academia, etc.),
- Reduction of medication of children by 90%, and establish both cognitive therapy and support systems with youth-peer support specialists for 13 to 19 years of age,
- Design a wide range of choices in mental health treatment services, programs, and projects,
- Legalize marijuana use for mental illness,
- People with mental health needs are to be understood, accepted and honored,
- All health care and mental health care is seen as a human right,
- Due to the five decades of harm pharmaceutical companies have caused, they will be taxed starting immediately for five decades to pay for a new system of healthcare,
- End all involuntary hospitalization (also known as civil commitments) and only have voluntary hospitalization when all other consumer choices of treatment are tried for more than two weeks,
- If a facility forcibly medicates anyone against their will, the individuals responsible will be criminally prosecuted, and the facility will lose its license for one year for each offense,
- Collaboration between psychiatrists and alternative care providers to be mandated in all academic universities and all text books, with an integrated, coordinated, collaborative CAM (Complementary Alternative Medicine) system of care for mental health treatment at both inpatient and outpatient treatment centers,
- Global recognition to abandon the current paradigm of care, social ideals, and practices of Mental Health care
- Acceptance of the importance of healing from traumatic experiences are restore to health through being in nature, that full body exercise in many forms, such as recreational experiences are valid and helpful, and that integration and support of community with community-based service be supported and funded.

Federal probes, investigations, and national class-action lawsuits are legitimately changing and reforming the mental health system of care. Since the American government refuses to reform this MH system, it is the C/S/E Movement leading the change.

One change I am supporting and promoting is Orthomolecular Medicine, first researched by Abram Hoffer in Canada, leading to Linus Pauling reading Abram's research and furthering it along in America. Abram and Linus both have contributed to the growth in understanding and expanding our understanding of nutritional-based treatments.

Abram started the Journal of Orthomolecular Medicine and the International Society of Orthomolecular Medicine, and Linus started the Linus Pauling Institute at Oregon State University. Sadly both are gone now, but they leave a legacy of medicine that will create a new medical paradigm shift for MH treatments. Now more urgently than ever, it is American society that needs to make the shift to the new emerging restoring of health call Functional Medicine.

If you would like to have a free showing of a functional medicine DVD, call Carole Willey at 360-352-5361 voice mail and captioned phone.

WIP Announcements

Send in announcements to
olywip@gmail.com or
Works In Progress
PO Box 295 Olympia WA 98507

Regularly held events

PFLAG Olympia
2nd Sunday, 1-4 PM
Priest Point Park, Olympia

Annual picnic -- starting an hour earlier than our regular meeting time.

Drunken Poetry
Last Word Books
211 East 4th Olympia
3rd Monday, 7:30-9:30pm

Readings operate on a first-come first-serve sign-up basis. Details/requirements are complicated so check out the Last Word Books website for more information. http://www.lastwordbooks.org

Drinking Liberally
1st and 3rd Mondays of each month, 7 pm
Bally Hoo Irish Pub & Restaurant
316 Schmidt Place, Tumwater

Local chapter of loosely structured national organization dedicated to discussion of liberal and progressive politics.

Eloquent Jazz Latin Escapes with Momenti Rubati
Live Jazz every Monday, 7 pm
The Royal Lounge
311 Capitol Way N, Olympia

This special gathering of music lovers meets together to experience the magic and excitement of the Momenti Rubati. Live music unites a community together for festive enjoyment and social fun. We invite you to meet with us, make new friends and relax to the beautiful sounds of the Momenti Rubati. 705-0760 No charge.

Volunteers Needed to Sort and Box Medical Supplies
Providence Health Int'l / CHUMA,
2601 Willamette Drive NE, Suite G, Lacey

No experience is necessary. Volunteers must be at least 14. CHUMA Int'l (Catholic Health United for Medical Assistance) practices global solidarity and environmental stewardship by ensuring useful medical supplies and equipment are shared with charitable health-care organizations in economically developing countries.

Supplies are sent to Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, Uganda/ other countries. Help CHUMA's volunteer efforts. Ray Reyes 493-5641 raymond.reyes@providence.org

F.O.R. TV Program
Mondays at 1:30 pm
Thursdays at 9:00pm
Channel 22 - TCTV

If you live outside of Thurston County or if you don't have cable TV, you can watch over 60 of Fellowship Of Reconciliation's recent TV programs on your computer! Visit www.olympiafor.org then click the link for TV Programs and click any program you want to watch.

Memoir Writing Group
Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
State Capitol Museum,
211 21st Ave SW, Olympia,
360-753-2580

The Memoir Writing Group at the State Capital Museum has been meeting regularly for nearly two years. The group explores the past through writing and assembling their memoirs. Led by Delores Kelso Nelson, a writer and teacher in the Olympia area for over 15 years, the memoir class serves participants by igniting lost memories, supporting practicing memoir writers, and offering a chance to socialize. Cost is $6 per class or 5 classes for $24

Peace Vigil
NW corner of Sylvester Park
Wednesdays 12 pm: Legion & Capitol

Please come for all or part of the hour to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1980. 491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

The Other Bank
Wednesdays 1:00-3:30pm
YWCA, 220 Union Ave SE, Olympia

The YWCA Other Bank provides free hygiene and cleaning supplies to families in need -- items that can not be purchased with food stamps and are not available at food banks, yet are essential for maintaining health and personal dignity. Items include: toilet paper, laundry and dish detergent, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, soap, tampons and pads, cleaning products, etc. 360-352-0593

PLEASE DONATE! Donations can be dropped off Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm

Stonewall Youth Support Groups
Wednesdays -- 705-2738
4:30-6:30pm for 21 and under group
7-9pm for 18+ group.

Stonewall Youth is an organization of youth, activists, and allies that empowers lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual (LGBTQQIA) youth to speak for themselves, educate their communities, and support each other. Stonewall Youth envisions a community in which all queer, gender variant, and gender non-conforming youth have a full spectrum of choices regarding their bodies, self-expression, and legal rights. www.stonewallyouth.org info@stonewallyouth.org

Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace (OMJP)
Monthly Meetings
2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 7 pm

Work on a variety of global and local issues. Larry 866-2404 lmosque-da@comcast.net

"The Veterans Hour," locally produced by Veterans for Peace
Thurston County TV (TCTV) - Ch. 22
Wednesdays, 5 pm
Fridays, 9-10 pm

Info: Dennis Mills 867-1487 mills.dennis@comcast.net

"Parallel University"
Thursdays, 12 - 1 pm:
89.3 FM or kaos.evergreen.edu/

Informative programs about peace, social justice, the environment, progressive politics, and other alternative viewpoints. parralleluniversity@yahoo.com

Women in Black
Every Friday from 5:00 to 6:00 pm:
W. 4th Avenue, near the fountain

Women only. Please wear black. Some signs are provided. Women in Black is a loose network of women worldwide committed to peace with justice. Info: Karin 754-5352 kraftkf@comcast.net

Percival Landing Peace Vigil
Fridays, 4:30-6pm
4th Avenue and Water Street, Olympia

All welcome to come to witness in a very friendly way for peace and nonviolence. We provide plenty of signs. The Olympia Fellowship Of Reconciliation has sponsored this since 1998.
491-9093 or glen@olympiafor.org

Bread and Roses
Saturdays, 1-5 PM
1320 8th Ave SE, Olympia

We're building a food garden! By summertime, every square foot of land at the Bread & Roses community will be growing fruits, nuts, herbs, and vegetables for our community meals and for local soup kitchens and food banks. If you have a pickup truck, have yard tools to loan, are passionate about organic gardening or local food security, or if you just like doing fun projects with your neighbors, please join us! There are many ways to be involved (painting, repairs, canning, preparing supper, etc). Followed by Saturday Supper at 6:00pm. Saturday Supper Bread & Roses' volunteer hosts serve a gourmet meal Saturday evenings. http://www.breadandrosesolympia.org 754-4085

Community Special Events

Downtown Olympia Historic Shoreline Walks
Wednesdays, through Aug 31 , 6:00 pm
Saturdays, through Sept 3, 10:00 am
Sundays, through Sept 4, 10:00 am

Free guided walks for all ages led by Stream Team Sound Stewards on Wednesdays and weekends. Gather at the plinths on the boardwalk near the street to the LEFT of Bayview Thriftway (516 Fourth Ave. W). Look for large signs indicating the meeting point. For more info: www.streamteam.info or Patricia Pyle at 360.570.5841. Walks last about an hour.

Beginning Canning: Summer Fruit
Sunday August 7, 3 - 6pm
GRuB Farmhouse

Come learn the basics of putting fruit by. We will take the surpluses of summer and make jewels for the cold dark days of winter. Jams, sauces, and whole fruit will be covered. This class will be featuring local and regional organic produce. Taught by Kim Langston & Judy Henry.
Register online: www.olympiafood.coop/classes/

Making Africa Smile Again
Burundi Genocide and Gegeneration
Wednesday, August 10, 7pm
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave SW, Oly

Prosper Ndabishuriye, from burundi is a survivor of one of Africa's bloodiest civil wars, the Founder and General Coordinator of Youth in Reconstruction of a World in Destruction will share his story and his hope for "Making Africa smile again." In 2005 and 2006, he was nominated Giraffe Hero and Ambassador for Peace. Prosper is a community developer and peacemaker. Admission is FREE!

For more info: 206-902-8090 or www.jrmd.org or info@jrmd.org

Japanese Cooking Basics: Makizushi & Onigiri
Saturday, 13 August, 6:30 - 8:30pm
GRuB Farmhouse

Learn how to cook sushi rice flavored with enough vinegar to make it tasty, then prepare them for nori rolls (makizushi) with fresh summer vegetables, ume (Japanese plum), and other ingredients. We will also make Onigiri, Japanese rice balls filled with savory goodness. Come learn to make these popular additions to the Japanese obento for your own lunchbox. Yum! Taught by Chie Okazaki.
Register online: www.olympiafood.coop/classes/

Bridges Not Walls Olympia meeting
Sunday, August 14, 4PM
MIXX 96 building, State and Washington

Bridges Not Walls, from the South Sound region of Washington State, addresses issues of immigration in our community. We believe immigrants, regardless of legal status, deserve to be treated with dignity. We seek to make our communities a place where the contributions of immigrants are valued and respected. We oppose the fear and intimidation created by immigration enforcement in our region. Therefore, we work in solidarity with the immigrant communities in our area to promote human rights, economic rights and civil rights for all people.

Call 943-8642 for more information.

"Implementing" the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
Tuesday, August 16, 7 pm, free
Traditions Cafe, 300 5th Ave SW, Oly

Evergreen Professors Alan Parker and John Gates will provide a 2 hour workshop on the implementation of what was passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007. There will be examination of international law as it applies to Indigenous Peoples rights, a consideration of the views of activists, and an examination of questions regarding implementation of the UN Declaration.

Vigil at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma
Saturday, August 20, 11am

On the 3rd Saturday of each month Bridges Not Walls invites your participation in a vigil at the Northwest Detention Center, which was built on a superfund toxic waste site near downtown Tacoma. Carpool to leave Olympia at 11am from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural at Capitol and State, and will return to Oly by around 5pm.

The NWDC houses up to 1500 detainees and is run by GEO Group, a for-profit corporation that consumes $150,000 of taxpayers' taxes each night that it's full. Prisons and detention centers are a bizarre growth industry in the US! Bring coffee and food to support families that are visiting their locked-up loved ones; come and also protest a failed immigration policy.

Email bridgesnotwalls@riseup.net or call (503) 970-3399 by Friday, May 15, for more information on what to bring (and what not to bring).

Bridges Not Walls Shelton meeting
Sunday, August 28, 4 pm
943-8642 for more information

Bridges Not Walls to meet at 4pm in downtown Shelton at the Mason County Literacy office. The carpool from Olympia will leave promptly at 3:15 pm from the Olympia-Rafah Solidarity Mural (State and Capitol). 360-943-8642 for more information.

2011 Olympia Family Barter Faire
September 10th-11th
Shincke Road, Olympia, WA

SAVE THIS DATE -- The 2011 Olympia Family Barter Faire will take place in a new location this year (about 10 minutes northeast of Olympia). Gates will open at 8am on Saturday. Sunday is FREE!
For more information, contact us at www.olywa.us/olybarter or 360.866.1489.

COFFEE STRONG
VETERAN OWNED PRO-GI ANTI-WAR

Coffee Strong is a veteran-owned, veteran-operated GI coffeehouse. Veterans provide a safe place for soldiers to share the effects of disastrous wars, within 300 meters of the gates at Joint Base Lewis-McChord. The unique coffeehouse welcomes soldiers with a free cup of coffee. There is access to the Internet, an informative library, and many referrals are available to community resources, including GI Rights counseling and Veterans Benefits. Free legal and educational resources are available.

Coffee Strong Events in August

Movie Night @ Coffee Strong
Friday August 5th 7pm
Call for more details.

Veterans Benefit Assistance
Every Friday, 10am
Call for more details.

Texas Hold 'Em Night
Friday August 26th, 7pm
Come join the folks at Coffee Strong, and test your poker skills! Call for more details.

15109 Union Ave SW, Lakewood WA (253) 581-1565

FREE

WORKS IN PROGRESS

SERVING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY OF OLYMPIA SINCE 1990

August 2011

Olympia Family Barter Faire

Sept 10 and 11, 2011

Olympia Family Barter Faire is a two-day event celebrating local and regional vendors in a family style gathering to barter their crafts, produce, cuisine, skills, and collections of stuff. Located in a beautiful rural spot near Olympia, there will be singing, dancing, music, and conversation.

This year the faire will offer...

- Vendors bartering the fruits of their harvest, labor, skills, crafting, creativity and quality used items
- Live entertainment
- Drum circle
- Camping
- Day parking

Critical Mass Bike Ride

Take over the streets Saturday morning! Ride your bike to the Faire and get a FREE MEAL at the volunteer kitchen!

Admission

Weekend pass --includes camping for one person and a 12 foot x 12 foot vending space in the circle. $25 Advanced tickets are available on-line at brownpapertickets.com or $30 at the gate

Saturday only -- $10 to camp or to come for the day

Sunday is free. There will be no organized workshops or stage music this day.

All minors must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Kids 16 and under are free.

Located on Shincke Road in Thurston County

(10 minutes northeast of Olympia)

contact info: olybarterfaire@gmail.com or 360-866-1489

". . .A democracy that . . . that encourages the participation of its citizens . . . and . . . doesn't allow the content of its character to be determined by a handful of corporate overlords and war profiteers. A democracy that . . . understands the fragility of the ecosystem . . . that . . . that respects human rights and seeks to uphold the dignity of all people everywhere . . . a democracy that prefers peace to . . . to . . . free market economics and globalization. A democracy that doesn't present itself as the antithesis of optimism, hope, and moral longevity."

Works In Progress
PO Box 295
Olympia WA 98507